ISSUE
NO. 07

FIRST OF ITS KIND IN KERALA
CULTURAL WEEKLY eMAGAZINE

MAY 28-JUN 03
2021

INK OCHI

Latest Art, Culture, Food, Tourism news, views and announcements

Weekly collection

BOOK REVIEW

MAJULI ISLAND

WORLD'S LARGEST FRESH WATER
RIVER ISLAND
IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

A PHOTO ESSAY

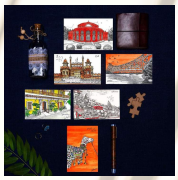
ART GALLERY

LaksharchanA

MANTRA OF ILLUSTRATIONS
WITH 100000 LINES

ARCHANA PEREIRA

PhotoRoom



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Editor's Note

Why a page for poem in all issues?

Poems awaken the dormant soul in us. We all come at place, where we feel dejected and disenfranchised with this materialistic world, once in our lives.

At that time of undetermined condition and confusion, the poems will make our heart clear of all the debris and unwanted feelings and make our heart pure with the awakened soul.

We have collected these poems with deligence and long-waiting. The list may vary from person to person. Of course, no one could determine what the best poem is. The choice of yours may be different. Ours is not the fianl list.

Happy Reading...!!

Varghese T. Thomas

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POEM

STILL I RISE

By: Maya Angelou

Still I Rise :

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise
I rise
I rise.

Art Gallery

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Artwork for Sale

Code: INK141

Title: Spring

"Where flowers bloom so does hope"
- Lady Bird Johnson

Artist: Aashima Mehrota

Medium: Mixed

Surface: Canvas - Stretched

Size: 20x24 inches

Price: Rs.28000/-

Contact for sale:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK142

Untitled

Artist: Binu Kottarakara

Medium: Watercolor

Surface: Canson paper, 300gsm - Rolled

Size: 21x14

Price: Rs.5000/-

Contact for sale:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK143

Title: Melody of Nature

Artist: Sujata Chakraborty

Medium: Oil Colour

Surface: German Canvas Board - Framed

Size: 15x17 inches

Price: Rs.10000/-

Contact for sale:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK144

Title: Sarppa Kaavu (Sacred Grove)

Artist: Asha Nair

Medium: Watercolour

Surface: Handmade Paper - Rolled

Size: A4

Price: Rs.2500/-

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Travel

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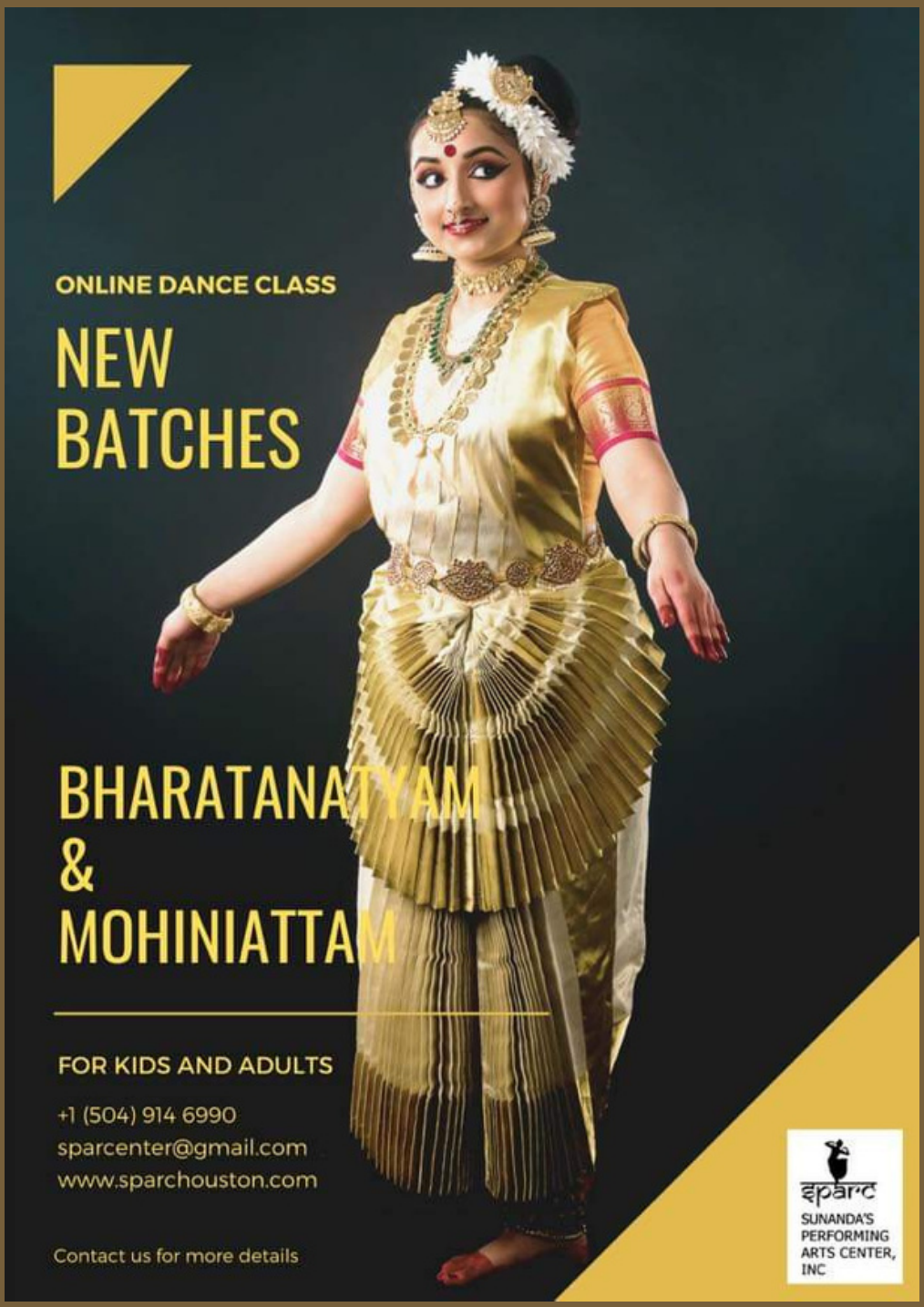


MAJULI

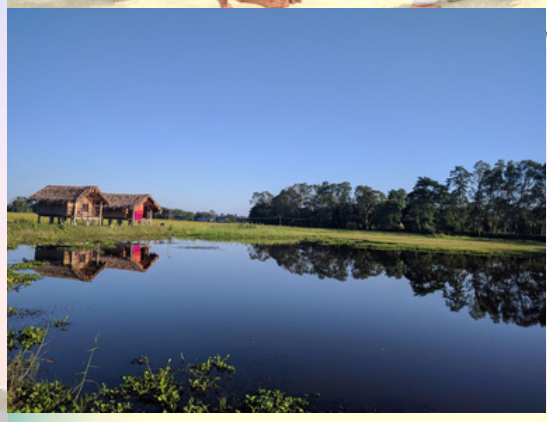
WORLD'S LARGEST FRESH WATER RIVER ISLAND IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

A PHOTO ESSAY

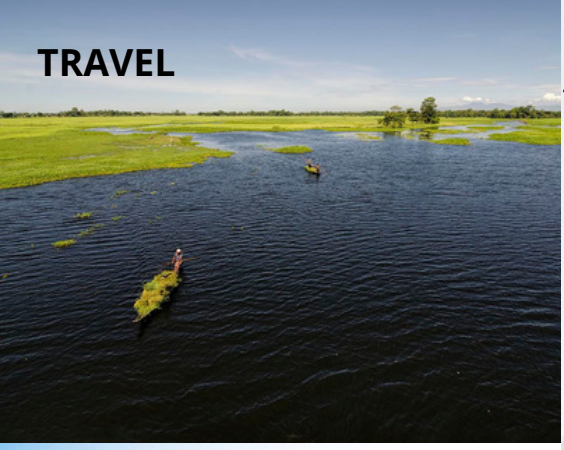
MAJULI

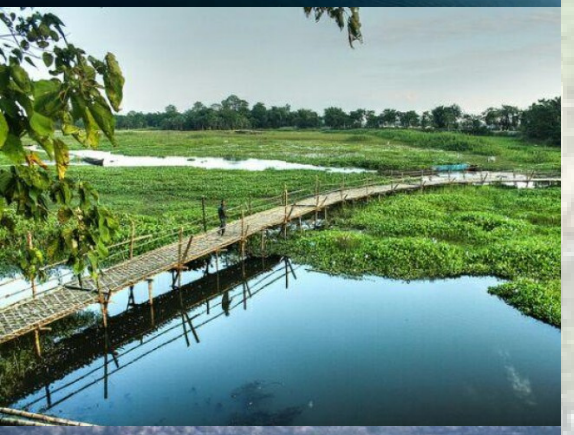
BY: MEELA SHYAM

Located in the middle of mighty river Brahmaputra, Majuli is the largest inhabited river Island in the world. The River Island, which is the top seat of Neo-Vaishnavite movement started by 15th Century scholar and reformer Srimanta Sankardeva, is also the first Island district of India.



According to the statistics with the Assam government, there were 65 Vaishvavite Satras in the Island. However, most of them had to shift to other places due to the recurrent erosion problem every year and only 22 Satras exists in the Island now. The erosion had already eaten up more than one-third of the Island's landmass over the years. While Majuli comprised over 1,256 square km of land in the beginning of 20th century, the Island is reduced to a mere 352 square km in 2014. >>>





MAJULI

Although dominated by the Mishing community, the Island is also home to other ethnic communities like the Deoris, Sonowal Kachari, Nepalis etc. The Vaishnavite Satras set up by Srimanta Sankardeva, his disciples and their descendants in the Island is what gives the Island its unique identity. The Satras which are Vaishnavite Institutions basically preaches about a caste and classless society that seeks spiritual upliftment of every individual. While some Satras as known as 'Udasin' Satra, where the Bhakats follows celibacy, in some Satras the Satradhikar (head of the Satra) and the Bhakats are allowed to marry and have a family.

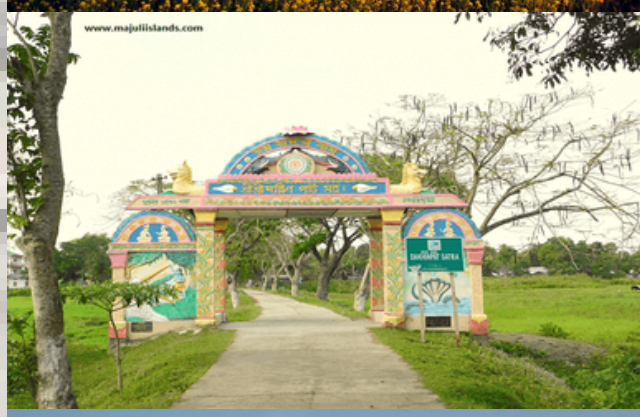
Although all the Satras in the Island follow the basic principles of Neo-Vaishnavite movement, each of them has yet some different identity in terms of their cultural commitments—while some Satras masters the art of mask making, some Satras takes pride over their mastery in Satriya Gayan and Bayan (the music and dance forms that are part of Vaishnavite culture). Some Satras, on the other hand, boasts their expertise for Bhaona (the act based theatrical performance) and Paalnam, the art forms innovated and used by Srimanta Sankardeva to propagate the principles of Neo-Vaishnavite culture. >>>

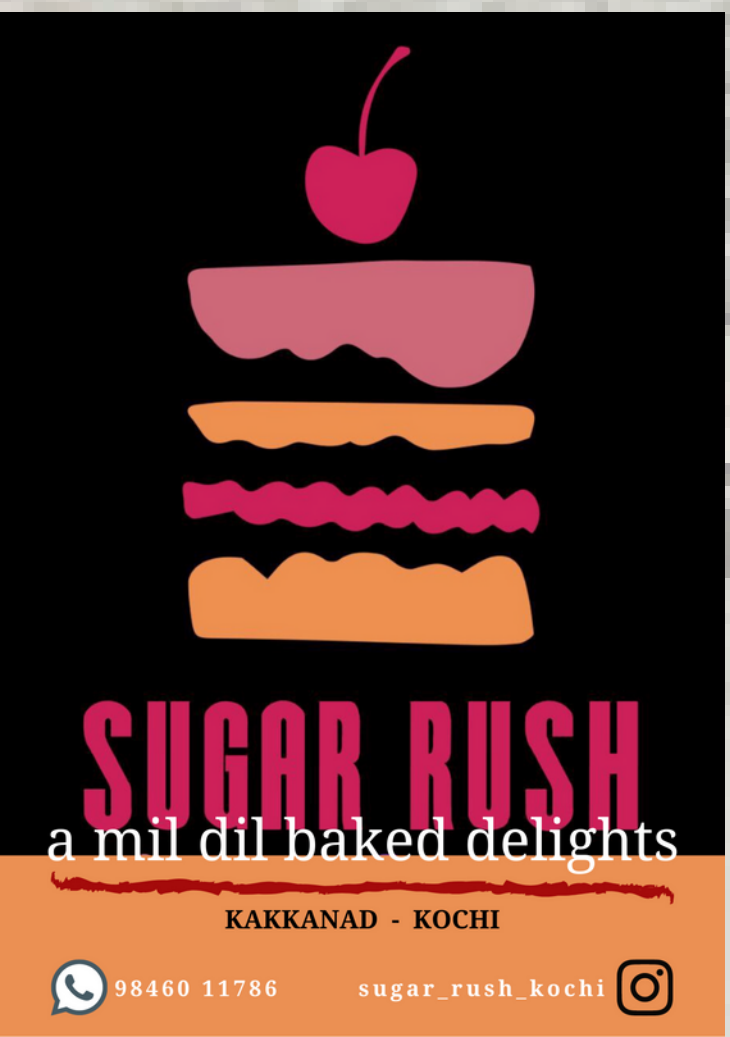
TRAVEL

MAJULI

Crafts of Majuli depicts the mastery of the craftsmen. Handloom, manuscript making, mask making, pottery, wood carving and cane and bamboo work are some of the important craft works of Majuli.

The cultural landscape of the Island becomes more vibrant during the annual Raas Leela festival, which is celebrated during the month of November in most of the Satras and during the 'Ali aye ligang' festival—the main festival of the Mishing community, which is celebrated during the month of February. <>





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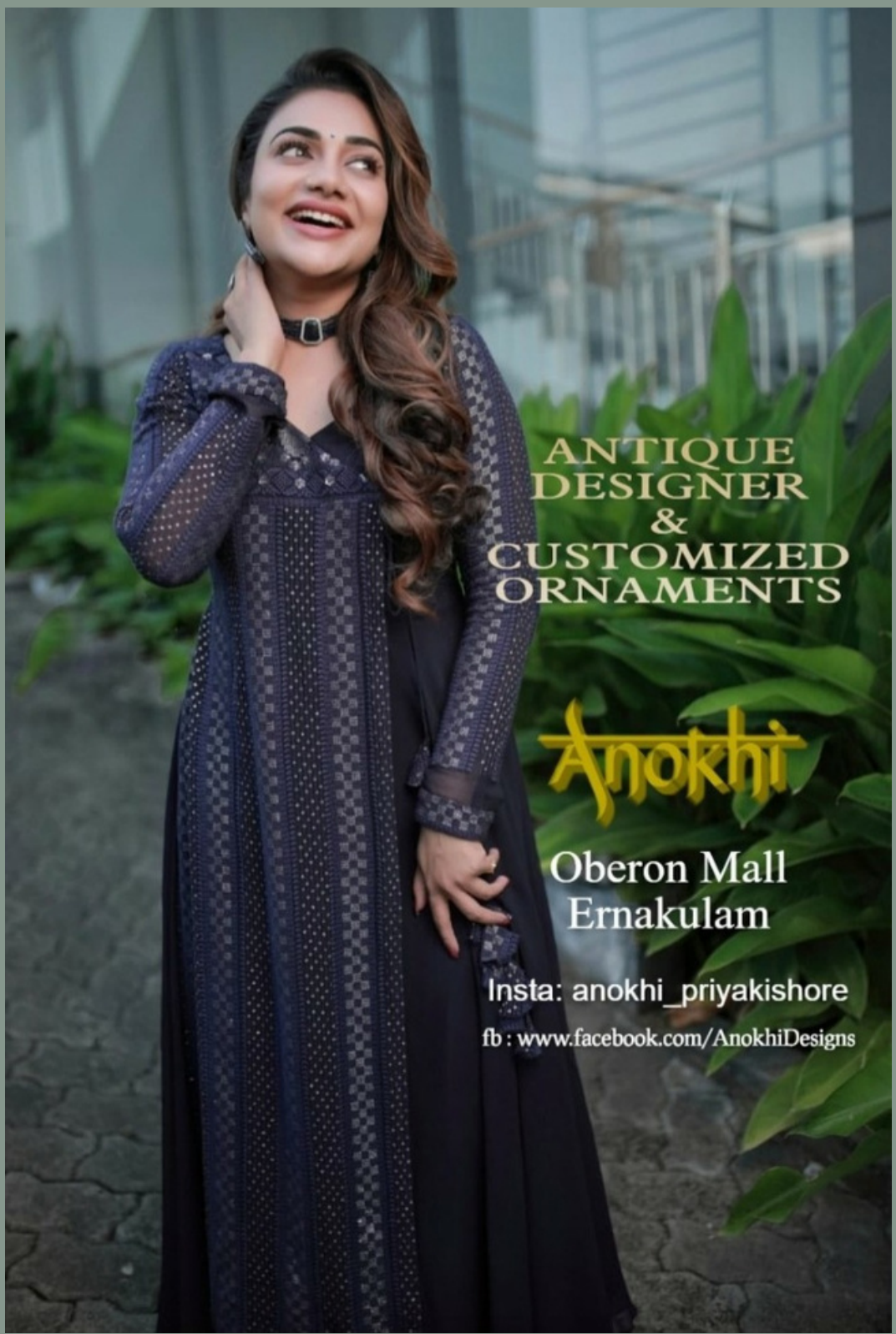

ARCHANA PEREIRA
ARCHITECT / ARTIST

ANNIE SMITHA
RESEARCH & TEST

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MANTRA OF ILLUSTRATIONS
WITH 100000 LINES

ARCHANA PEREIRA

COVER STORY

LaksharchanA

Research & Test
by: **Annie Smitha**
Educator / Writer

Illustrations by:
Archana Pereira
Architect / Artist

When passion for traveling, architecture and history combines with passion for art, great ideas are born.

Ink Trails is such an idea conceived by Archana Pereira and is in full swing since 2015. Most artworks are not appreciated by the layman simply because he is unable to relate it to something. Archana's expertise lies in her ability to transform familiar places, objects and monuments into captivating illustrations so that people stop by for a second look noticing the unnoticeable. >>>

LakSharchanA

An architect by profession, Archana Pereira started sketching more frequently during her masters in Architecture at Glasgow School of Art. She was selected for the Young Talent Programme by Alliance Francaise de Bangalore in 2016 for her first solo exhibition.

Archana's works featured at the Kala Ghoda Art Festival for two consecutive years 2017 and 2018. She was also selected for the Illustration for Design Category in the Kyoorious Design awards in 2018.

Archana's works present the scenic beauty of our everyday cities, their finer details and the grandeur of monuments in a new light, all illustrated by hand.

The Bangalore Illustrated map was selected as part of a competition held by the Bangalore International Airport in 2019 , to be displayed and distributed among visitors traveling from the airport . Her works are turned into a wide variety of products ranging from travel cards to architectural projects.

Simple magnets can become one's favourite travel souvenir when The Gateway of India or The Bangalore State Library is recreated on it with the right shading and brightness invoking a sense of nostalgia.

Trails of Kerala consist of sketches- Cafes of Fort Kochi, Fishing nets and Jew town, Fort Kochi and Mattancherry colour map. These are art prints which recreates the visual they represent making one feel like visiting the place once again. >>>

Even Kochiites would wonder whether they had noticed certain elements of these very places before.

Tales of India, Mumbai and Bangalore diaries are also collection of art prints which could give that classy look to any wall. Archana's sketches turned into notebook and jot book cover pages-Indian Truck art note book, Chinese Fishing nets jot book , Hampi Notebook, Mumbai Map notebook- any art lover would want to possess.

Unique gift sets for various occasions have been crafted using her sketches. Coasters are yet another attraction especially the one named -

- With love from India-A set of 4 coasters with four different designs -One depicting Theyyam-a ritual art from Kerala, The colourful Indian Truck art, Chand Baori-one of the deepest and largest step walls in India and the beautiful camels at Pushkar fair in Rajasthan.

The hand sketched illustration on the wall of Sector 7 Café Bangalore with a supplementing European themed décor transports the diners to a European city.

Archana has designed coasters for Nike event in Kerala, illustrations for Toyota's annual dealer trip to the French Riviera and Bollywood themed coasters for an event hosted for Xiaomi employees. >>>

Some of her illustrations have been transformed into jigsaw puzzles like the Fort Kochi and Mattancherry Map Puzzle, Irani Chai Trails Puzzle and the Rhythm House Puzzle.

Incredible India is a series of 100 artworks based on the diversity of India in terms of architecture.

Unique architectural masterpieces which are synonymous with the place they are located for example Howrah bridge Kolkata, Gratitude- Pondicherry- to name a few forms the subject of these artworks. Capturing the subtle beauty of ordinary places and projecting them onto a canvas of distinct shades and brightness requires acumen and mastery.

This talented architect-cum artist is a Keralite who loves to travel all over the country and the world. Movies, books, art works related to stories of travel and history also delights this young artist. Her studio - Ink Trails is based out of Bangalore exploring places, objects and history to create enchanting illustrations.

To reach Archana: www.inktrials.in

Annie Smitha
Independent writer / Educator
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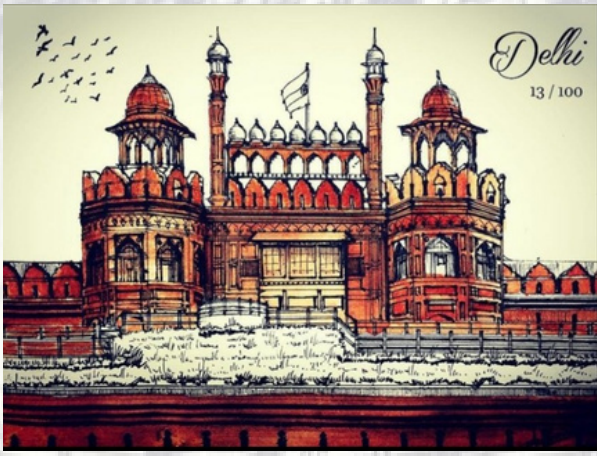

Adilabad Fort near Tughalaqabad

Contribution:Rana Safvi

In Asar us Sanadid edition 1, Sir Syed, when describing the fort of Adilabad built by Mohd Bin Tughlaq says, it's name was changed to Mohammadabad.

The word Adil (just) was removed from his name. He was not Adil & was renamed Khooni Sultan by the people as he killed 1000s of innocent people.

Adil was removed from his title and that is why Mohammed Adil Tughlaq Shah is known only as Mohammed Tughlaq Shah or Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

Aur hum khade rahe ghubar dekhte rahe Karavan guzar gaya!

In May 1857 the Indian sepoys had camped on these grounds putting up a fight against their former masters - the East India company under the banner of Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar.

If only trees could speak they'd tell tales of longings, dreams, ambitions & treachery.

Kakkarissi Kali

Source: Dept. of Cultural Affairs

Kakkarissi Kali or Natakam (drama) is a folk art form popular in Central Travancore. This muscial dance drama has a peculiar structure. The protagonist in most of the plays is known as Sundara Kakaan. Besides there are other characters like Kakkathis, Vedan etc.

The handsome Sundara Kakaan is the representative of the Kakkala community (a nomadic tribe of fortune-tellers). With dance steps and songs, they perform on stage. Scenes are enacted with dialogues, music and songs as in the erstwhile musical plays. The instruments used are Harmonium, Mrudangam, Ganchira and Kaimani.

The play opens with a welcome song. Then enters the Kakkalan. He comes with a fire – torch raised. He dances to rhythmic beats. 'Thampuran' will be seated on the stage as the questioner. The question – answer session between the 'Thampuran' and kakkalan moves the play forward. The play progresses with song and dance. The Kakkarissi Natakam depicts social criticism, satire etc.

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WILD elephant
WHISPERING GLADE BACK TO NATURE
MANKULAM MUNNAR MIRACLE m.u.d.h.o.u.s.e
THE wild trails MUNNAR

Unakka Chemmeen Chammandhi!

Dried Shrimp Dried Chutney

By: Rose Maria

Kerala's favourate!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Cleaned dried shrimp
- 1 cup Grated coconut
- 2-3 tsp Crushed red chilli (refer notes)
- 4 Small / Pearl onion (sliced)
- 1/2 tsp Ginger (chopped)
- Curry leaves
- Salt
- Coconut oil

Instructions

- Dry roast the cleaned dried shrimp for 7-8 mins on low flame. Keep it aside.
- Heat oil in a pan and add crushed red chilli and sliced small onions. Fry it for 2 mins. Add grated coconut and stir for a few mins. Do not brown it. This is done mainly to remove the water content from the coconut. Remove from fire and let it cool.
- Combine the heated coconut, roasted dried shrimp, ginger, salt and curry leaves. Grind everything together, till the dried shrimps are powdered well. Do not add water while grinding.
- Serve with rice.

Notes

You can use whole dried red chilli instead of red chilli flakes. Use around 3-4. I have it with rice, dosa, idli, chapathi etc; Storage: You can store this in the fridge for 2 weeks in an airtight container.

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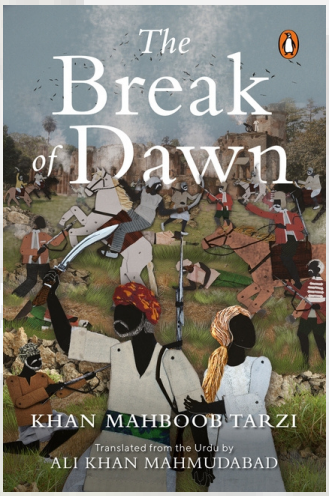

The Break of Dawn (A thrilling page-turner set amidst the 1857 rebellion)
Khan Mahboob Tarzi

Review

"Unconstrained, unlike a historian, the fiction writer Khan Mahboob Tarzi invents a moment in the history of 1857 and imbues it with high romance and action."-Rita Kothari, translator, writer, and professor of English, Ashoka University

"[The 1857] rebellion has been the subject of scholarly attention and debate, but the events have not drawn too much literary attention in terms of novels, plays, etc. It is thus good to read this novel and to have it in translation."-Rudrangshu Mukherjee, chancellor and professor of history, Ashoka University.

- **A thriller and romance set amidst the raging battle to free India of the British in 1857.**
- **Brings into focus the lesser-known popular literature in Urdu around the 1857 mutiny.**
- **The translator, Prof. Ali Khan Mahmudabad, was led to the book out of personal interest, as it includes an account of the erstwhile Mahmudabad royal family's role in the 1857 revolt.**
- **Introduces readers to Khan Mahboob Tarzi, a prolific author who wrote over a hundred novels on history, politics, science-fiction, romance and erotica.**

It is the searing month of June. The rebellion against the British has just begun and Awadh is up in flames. Hindus and Muslims have joined hands to overthrow the foreign rulers and set India free. Some Indian rulers have started to enter into alliances to fight the firangis, while others have thrown in their lot with the foreigners. Amid all this, Riyaz Khan, a young soldier from the army of the Raja of Mahmudabad, saves a group of Britishers from fellow 'mutineers' and escorts them to the safety of Lucknow. In this group is Alice, who falls in love with Riyaz and eventually becomes an informer for the rebels.

The Break of Dawn, originally published in Urdu under the title Aghaaz-e-Sahar, is a thrilling page-turner and a reminder of a time when Indians of all classes and creeds came together to fight for the honour and freedom of their homeland.

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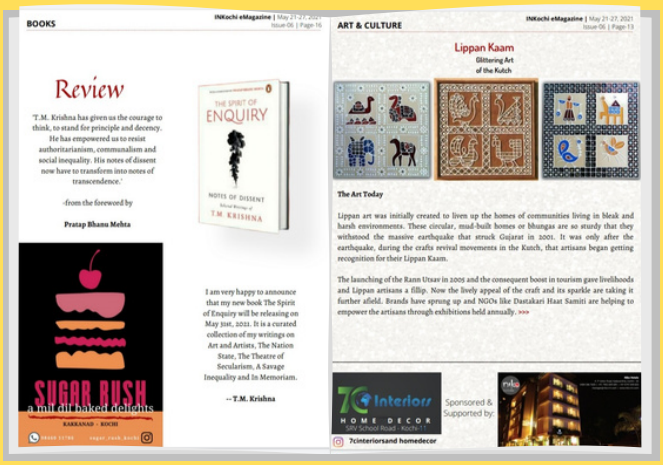

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JUN 04 - 10
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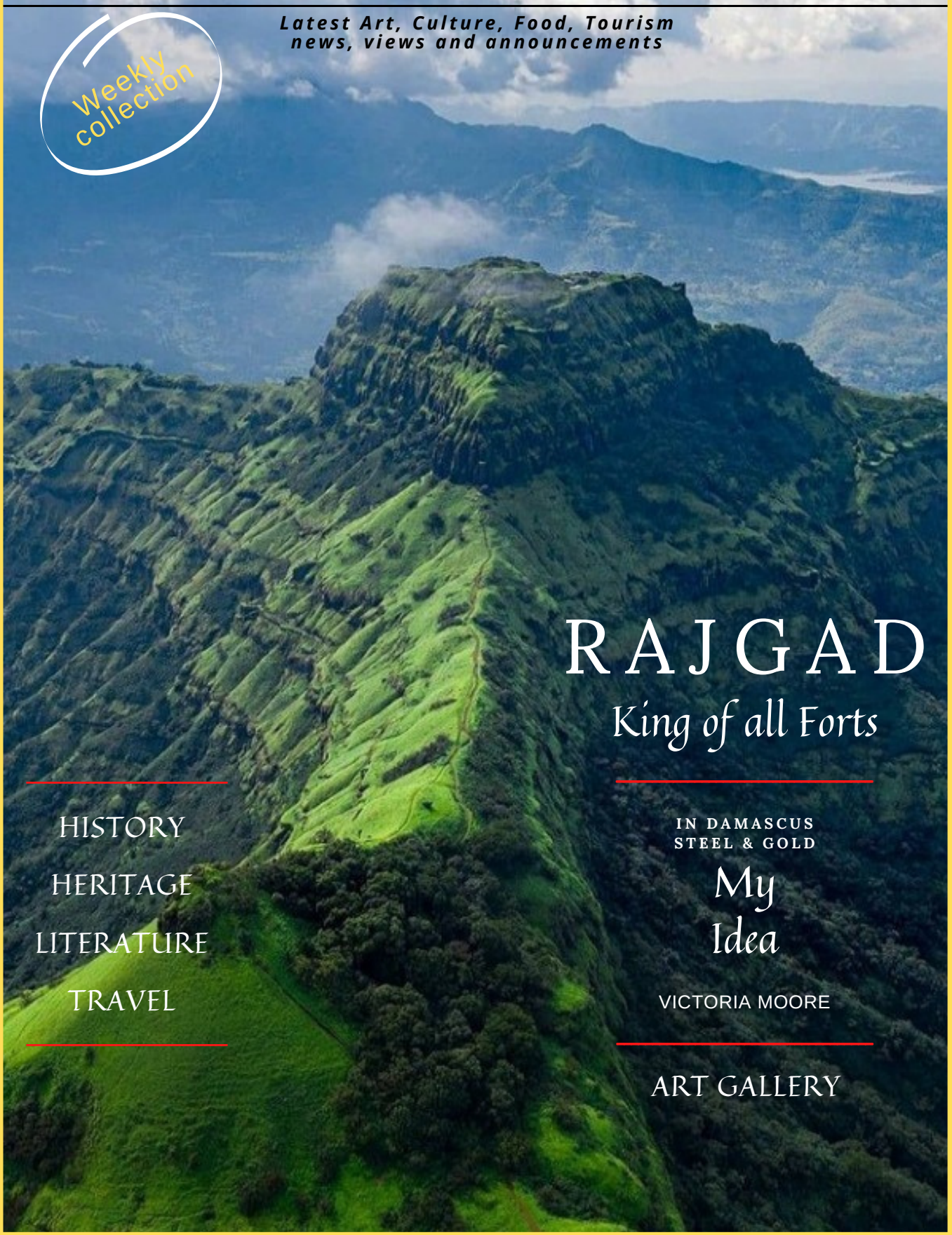
Weekly collection



RAJGAD

King of all Forts

HISTORY
HERITAGE
LITERATURE
TRAVEL

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea

VICTORIA MOORE

ART GALLERY

Editor's Note

WHY WE NEED TO CONSERVE OUR CULTURAL SPACE

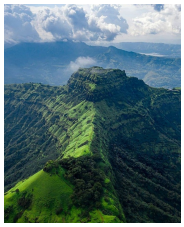
Cultural Space – where people can feel engaged and part of something bigger than themselves is just as relevant as it's always been. The postmodern culture of irony and pastiche is over, having been replaced by a post-ideological condition that stresses engagement, affect, and storytelling. Simply put, people want to be engaged; no longer spoken to, but to enter into the dialogue. Unfortunately the Covid pandemic has applied the clutch, but we will overcome this situation.

Engaging through cultural space is perhaps the most effective method of invested, interested engagement. Through its preservation and promotion, you expose people to new opportunities of exploration, as well as bringing together vastly different types with one shared interest; something that's worth nurturing.

The preservation of cultural space is not something that should be underestimated. Its social effects can be exponential in building communities and movements whilst nurturing startups and supporting local business.

Happy Reading...!!

Varghese T. Thomas



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Artwork for Sale

Title: Paddy Field

Code: INK145

Artist: Shashank Shukla

Medium: Watercolour

Surface: Art paper – Rolled

Size: 12x10 inches

Price: Rs.12000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Code: INK146

Artist: Tessy John
Medium: Acrytic
Surface: Canvas – Framed
Size: 22x16 inches
Price: Rs.5000/-

Title: Radha Krishna

Symbolises the eternal love between Radha and Krishna.
I always believe that we can do everything with love, compassion, devotion and humanity.

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

Artwork for Sale

Title: Shards of Blue

A Zentangle artwork.
This sytle of artwork is non-representational and unplanned
so as to focus on each stroke and
get a unique end result.

Artist: Diya Ann Sajan
Medium: Gel and Micron pens
Surface: Cartridge sheet
Size: A2
Price: Rs.12000/-

Code: INK147

Contact:
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Artwork for Sale

Code: INK148

Title: Poppy Garden

Artist: Sunil De Linus

Medium: Watercolour

Colours: Artist watercolor

Surface: Handmade Paper 440gsm
Cold pressed – Rolled

Size: 11x15 inches

Price: Rs.20000/-

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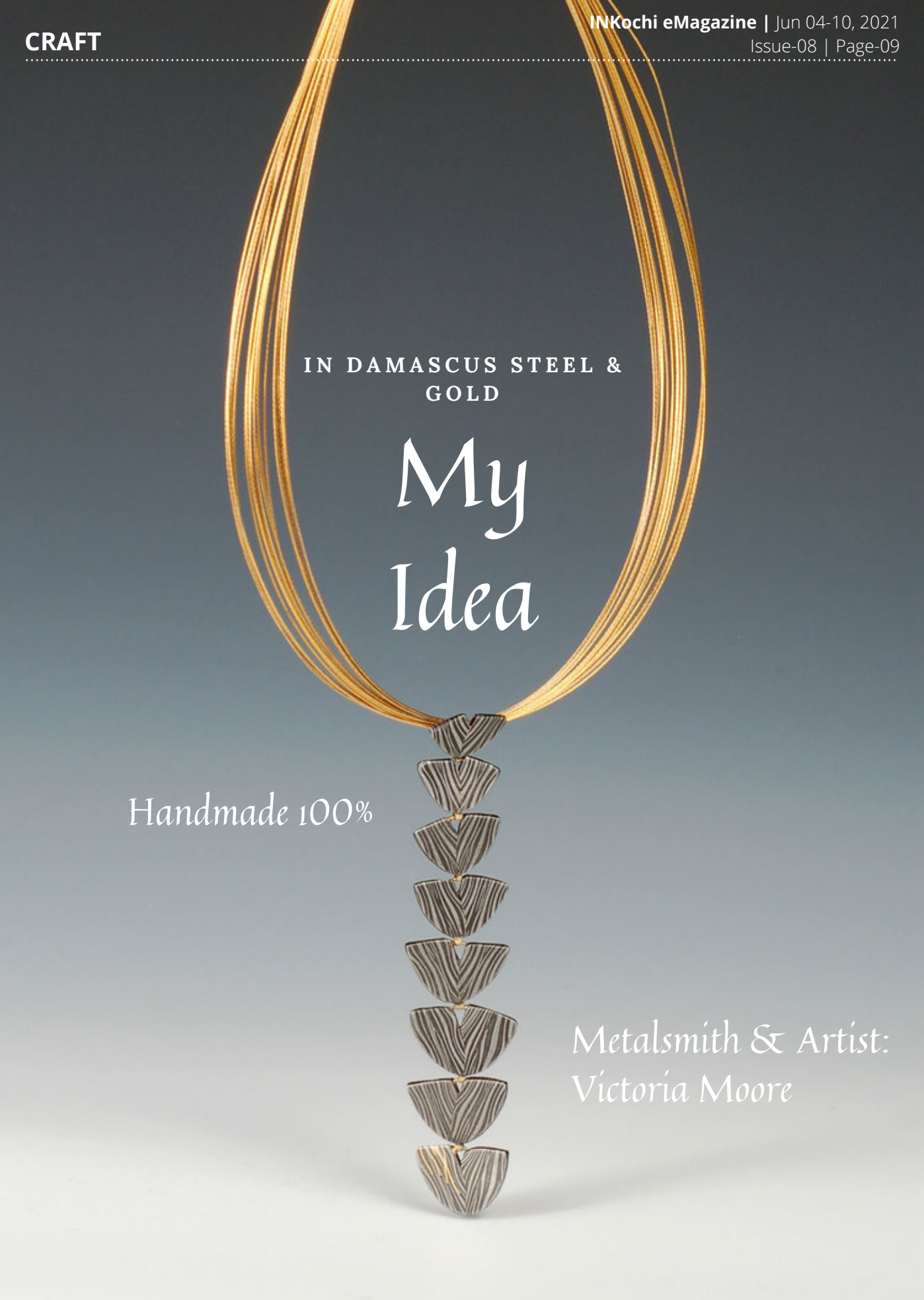
IN DAMASCUS STEEL &
GOLD
My
Idea
Handmade 100%
Metalsmith & Artist:
Victoria Moore

CRAFT

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea

Handmade 100%

Reproduced by:
Varghese T Thomas

I make beautiful and unique objects entirely by hand. My work starts with creating my own raw materials that are then forged, fabricated, knit and dyed into useful and endearing art objects.

One body of my work is created from exquisitely patterned steel called Damascus Steel. I forge together bars of steel and iron while they are blazing hot. The finished objects I make from this metal are jewelry, utensils and tools. >>>

7C Interiors
HOME DECOR
SRV School Road - Kochi-11
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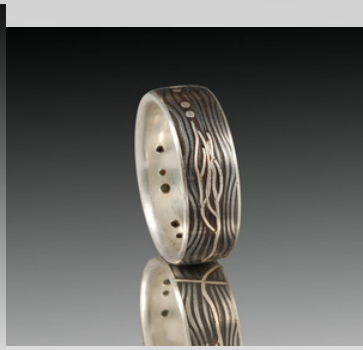
Only at Thoppumpady - Kochi

My childhood was full of making little things and always carrying some project with me to work on. I still do this, always with some object in progress. It is easy for me to define myself as a maker and builder of things. I received a BA in sculpture from the University of Maryland in 1991, and an MFA concentrating in metalsmithing from Rochester Institute of Technology's School for American Craft in 1996.

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea



After graduate school, I began my business with utensils and vessels made of the patterned metal that I still work. Now I feel drawn to the intimacy of the little forms of which jewelry is made, and a structural freedom in working on this scale in relation to the human form. Working with this uniquely patterned steel coupled with radiating gold has been genuinely exciting. I enjoy the closeness I feel with each piece that comes from my studio, the complete creation of metal that I have made. >>>

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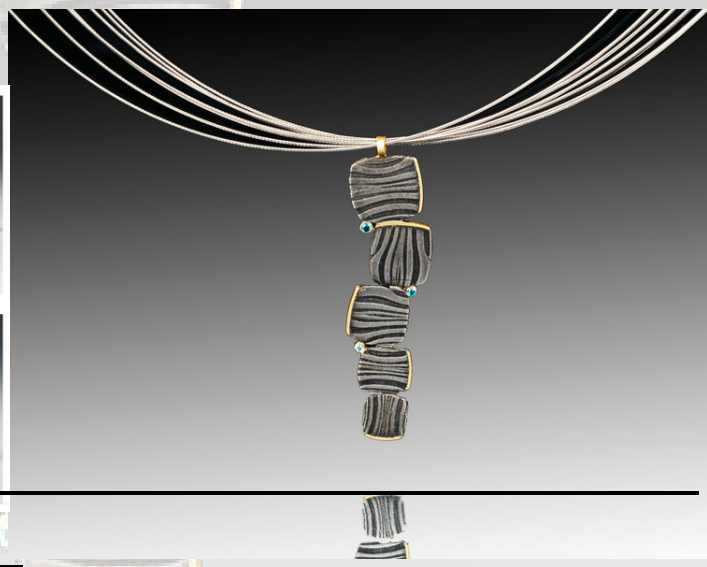
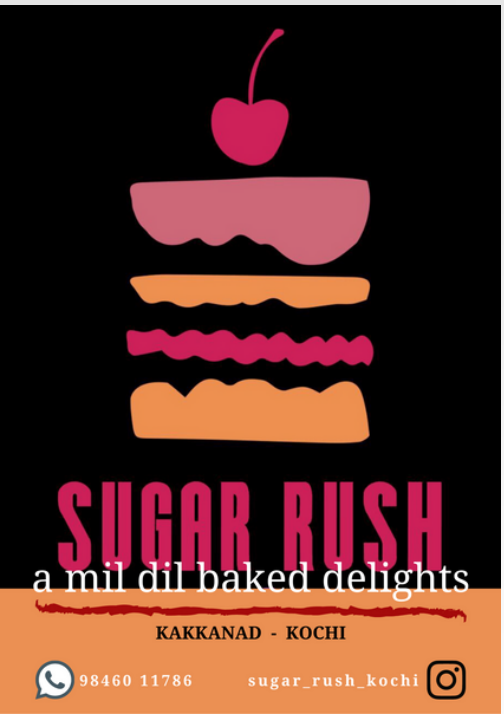
WILD elephant
WHISPERING GLADE BACK TO NATURE
MANKULAM MUNNAR
MIRACLE m.u.d.h.o.u.s.e
THE wild trails MUNNAR

Metalsmith Victoria Moore works primarily in steel to create exquisitely patterned jewelry. The expected application of steel as a macho structural material inspires her to rebel against that expectation to create forms and surfaces from steel and other metals that are personal, feminine, soft and tactile.Victoria Moore's core technique is Damascus steel, a layered steel that has origins in Middle Eastern sword-making from 1100 to 1700 AD. <>

IN DAMASCUS STEEL & GOLD

My Idea





Travel

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RAJGAD

King of all Forts

Rajgad Fort is one of the grand forts of the Sahaydris and lies at an altitude of 1400 m (4, 600 feet). Formerly known as Murumdev, Rajgad Fort was the capital of the Maratha Empire during the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for 25 years, before moving the capital to Raigad Fort. The Rajgad Fort was built with the treasure found on the adjacent Torna Fort. This was one of the favourite forts of Shivaji Maharaj and he stayed the most in this fort. Many historical events took place in this fort, such as the birth of Shivaji's son, Rajaram Chhatrapati, his queen, Saibai's death and Afzal Khan's head is buried in the fort.

Text & Photos by:
Shivaram N. Baru

At a distance of 54 km from Pune, Rajgad is an ancient hill fort situated in the Pune district of Maharashtra. It is one of the top tourist places in Pune and also one of the popular places of trekking in Maharashtra.

The fort is divided into four parts, Padmavati Machi, Suvela Machi, Sanjeevani Machi, and Balekilla (small fort). The fort is an example of splendid design and construction. The diameter of the fort at the base is 40 km making it difficult for anybody to lay siege to it. >>>

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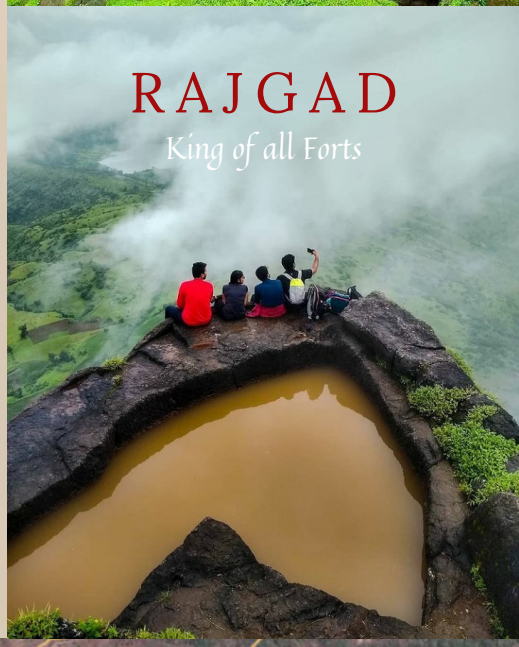
Sanjeevani Machi: The three layer fortification of Sanjeevani Machi is simply a marvel and is located on the southwest end. This extends approximately for 2.5 km along with many cisterns. The lower layers of the fort were separated by fortified bastion along with gate in order to defend independently. There is also an underground escape route which leads directly to the outermost fortification

Suvela Machi: Suvela Machi, located on the eastern part of Rajgad fort, is a narrow strip that leads to a fortified end. Before the fortifications, there is a Hanuman temple and towards the right of the hanuman temple is Nedh. Nedh is a giant hole on the rock face about 3 m in diameter carved by years of erosion. >>>



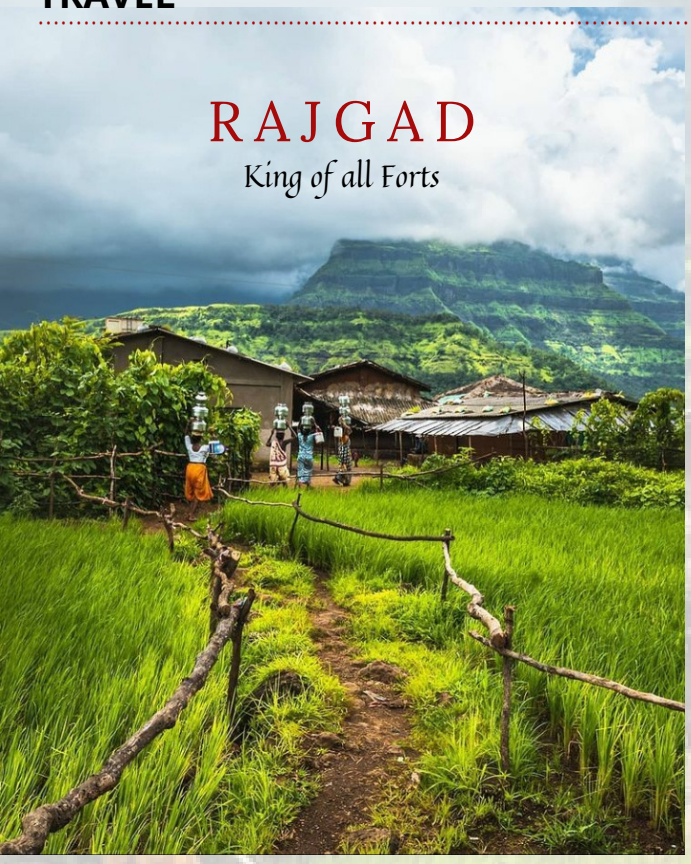
TRAVEL

RAJGAD

King of all Forts

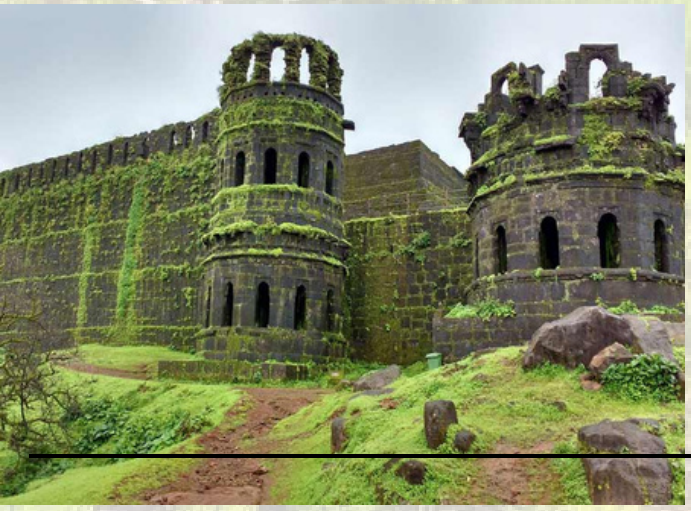
Padmavati Machi: This part of Rajgad Fort was a military base as well as a residential area. The Padmavati Machi has a Lake, Padmavati Temple, Pali Darwaja, Chor Dwaraja, Gunjawane Darwaja, Diwankhana, Daru Kothar, Rajwada, and Ghod Tale. Besides these there is also a Samadhi of Saibai, Shivaji's first wife.

Balekilla: This site is one of the highest parts in the Fort Rajgad that includes caves, water cisterns and palaces. The entrance door of the Balekilla is called as Maha Dwaraja. From here, one can easily view the whole fort. >>



Rajgad is amongst the most popular trekking destinations near Pune. There are several trekking routes to reach the Fort. Trek to Padmavati Machi via Chor Darwaja is the most popular route and the trek starts from Gunjawane village. From Gunjawane the 4.5 km trek is a little bit tough and it takes almost 3 1/2 hours to reach Padmavati Machi. One needs to navigate a steep rocky incline to reach Chor Darwaza.

The trek via Pali Darwaza is a simple climb and it starts from Pali village. The 3.5 km trek from Pali should take approximately 2 hours to reach the fort. There is another route called Bhor route which starts from Bhutonde. From Bhutonde village, a 3 –4 hours trek will take visitors to Alu Darwaja of Rajgad. This route is not popular as other two routes. It is always recommended that visitors should carry their own drinking water and food. <>



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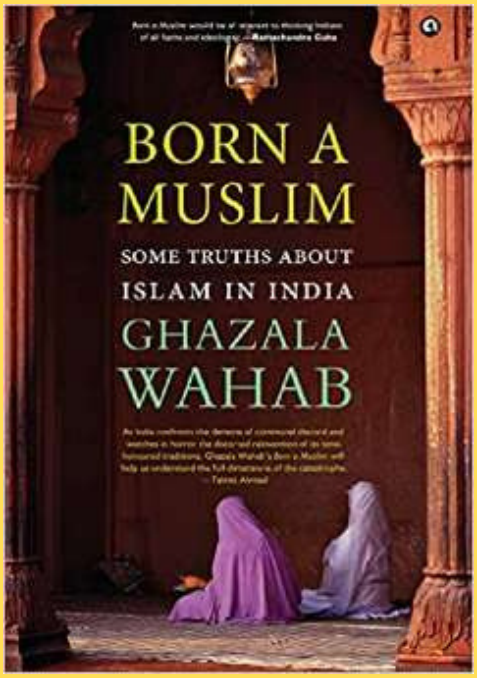
BOOK Review



By Arman Khan

The book analyses the nuances of the problems plaguing Muslims in India

Part memoir, part history, part marvelous storytelling

The roots of the Indian Muslim story can be traced back to the latent hypocrisy shown by successive governments, starting from the colonial period. The widespread cow protection riots of the late 19th century effectively alienated Muslims from the Indian National Congress (because it stayed neutral) and spurred the formation of the Muslim League.

This book is a powerful reflection on what it means to be Muslim in modern India. Born a Muslim is a remarkable book: a rare synthesis of lived experience and the roar of history. This is a sensitive and deeply empathetic book on the place and predicament of Muslims in India.

Drawing on the memoir, reportage, and documentary analysis, it contains many moving stories of individuals across class and regional divides, with these case studies skilfully located in a wider political and historical context. The book tracks the history of the religion from its revelation in Arabia in the seventh century to its spread through many parts of the world.

The author takes a clear-eyed look at every aspect of Islam in India today. She examines the factors that have stalled the socio-economic and intellectual growth of Indian Muslims and attribute both internal factors—such as a disproportionate reliance on the ulema—as well as external ones that have contributed to the backwardness of the community.

She shows at length, and with great empathy and understanding, what it is like to live as a Muslim in India and provides suggestions on how their lot might be improved.

An important and timely intervention in our public discourse, Born a Muslim would be of interest to thinking Indians of all faiths and ideologies. Fusing memory and history, this is a poignant state-of-the-community report that every Indian should read.

POEM

The Road Not Taken :

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Take a look Before it's Gone

A pavillion tomb in Zafarabad near Jaunpur about to meet its maker having been taken over partly by nature. There are multiple tombs of this type in Jaunpur environs which suffer the same fate.

Contribution: Muhibb Khan

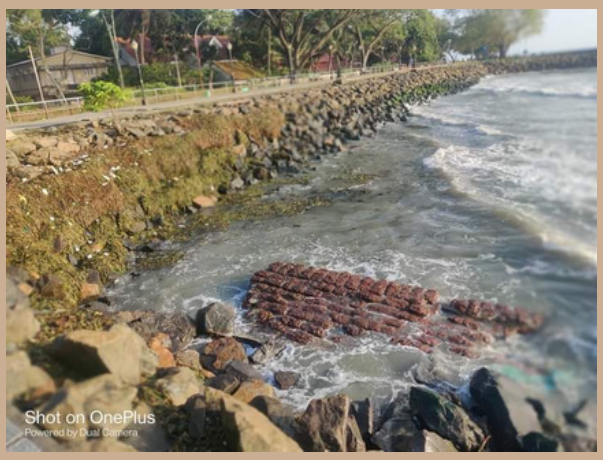
Heritage & History

Ancient Bharatiya Stone Chain Craft. It is found in several temples and architect marvels throughout the country. This stone chain is located at Gaurishvara. Temple which is located in the town of Yelandur, Chamarajanagar district of Karnataka.

The closed hall has images of various Vishnu, Shanmukha, Parvati, Mahishasuramardini (a form of the goddess Durga), Bhairava (a form of Shiva), Durga, Virabhadra (another form of Shiva) and Ganapati. The walls of the entrance are heavily decorated with reliefs depicting scenes from the puranic stories and the epics. An unusual decoration provided to the entrance are the chains of stone rings (bale).

Contribution: Srinivas Shamachar

Heritage & History



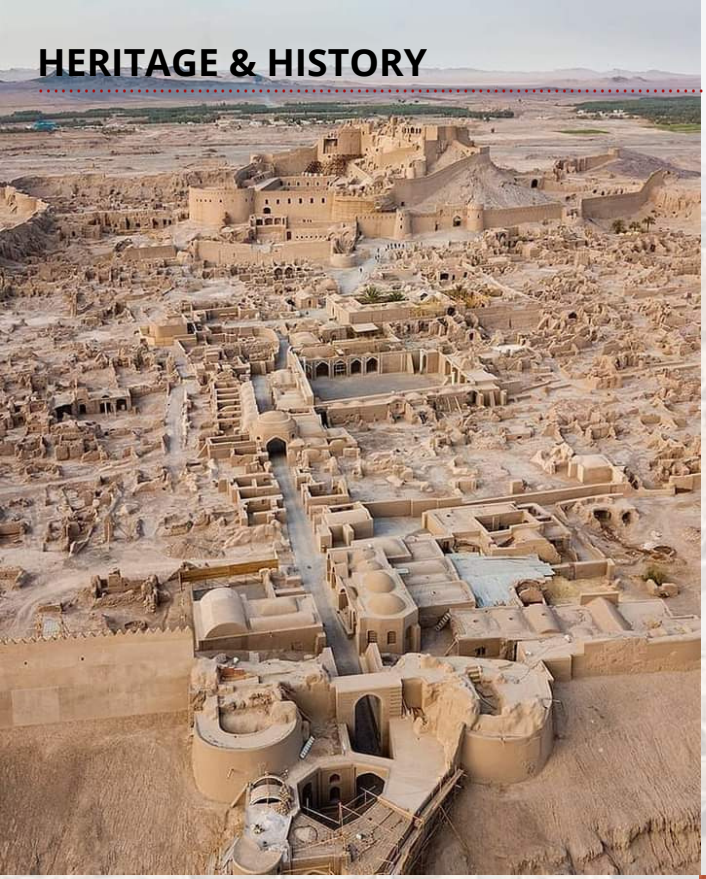
Remaining of Fort Emmanuel built in 1503 by the Portuguese became visible last week when seawater receded following low tide along the Fort Kochi beach, Kochi, Kerala – a laterite structure. It is believed the fist Fort made by a European in Asia.

Contribution: Santosh Tom George / Vasco Home Stay, Fort Kochi

Shri Radha Rani Temple, Barsana. Holika Dahan also known as Kamudu pyre is celebrated by burning Holika, an asura. For many traditions in Hinduism, Holi celebrates the killing of Holika in order to save Prahlad, a devotee of God Vishnu and thus Holi gets its name.

Contribution: Brijesh Dhobi

Heritage & History



The Arg-e Bam also known as Bam Citadel, located at the city of Bam, Kerman Province of Southeastern Iran, traced back to at least the Achaemenide Empire (sixth to fourth centuries BC).

Contribution: Tondra Neel

A gun hidden within a bible, made for Francesco Morozini, Doge of Venice (1619-1694). The owner of the bible could pull the silk bookmark to shoot while the book was still closed. Now on display at the Museo Correr in Venice.

Contribution: Tondra Neel

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Heritage & History

This is one of the astonishing pieces .... I have ever collected. **First ever drawings** of the moon made by Galileo Galeili after observing it through his telescope in 1609.

Contribution: Tondra Neel

Contribution: Gunjan Mitra

What goes up, always comes down. Well, that may not always be true.

Krishna's butterball, also known as Vaan Irai Kal, is a 250 ton, 20 feet high and 5 feet wide, stone boulder perfectly round in shape, located in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. The boulder is precariously perched on a slippery slope of a hill on a 4 feet base. Seemingly, defying all known laws of gravity the stone appears to be frozen in time. In local mythology, the stone is believed to be a dollop of purloined butter dropped by the Hindu god Krishna, who is notorious in Hindu mythology for stealing butter in his infancy.

The immovable nature of the rock has earned it the term Vaanirai Kal, which in Tamil translates to Stone of the Sky God. According to popular legend, it was the Pallava King

Narasimhavarman who first attempted to move the rock. This endeavour however, proved to be unsuccessful.

In 1908, the Governor of Madras, Arthur Lawley, once again set out with the aim of moving the stone from its place. Local sources confirm, he brought in seven elephants to move the rock but it did not budge an inch.

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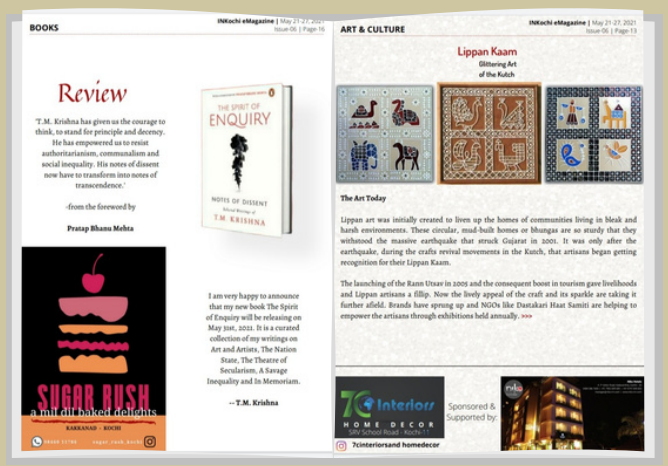
BOOKS
Review
ENQUIRY
NOTES OF DISSENT
T.M. KRISHNA
Pratap Bhanu Mehta
I am very happy to announce that my new book The Spirit of Enquiry will be releasing on May 31st, 2021. It is a curated collection of my writings on Art and Artists, The Nation State, The Theatre of Secularism, A Savage Inequality and In Memoriam.
-- T.M. Krishna
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JUN 11 - 17
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Weekly collection

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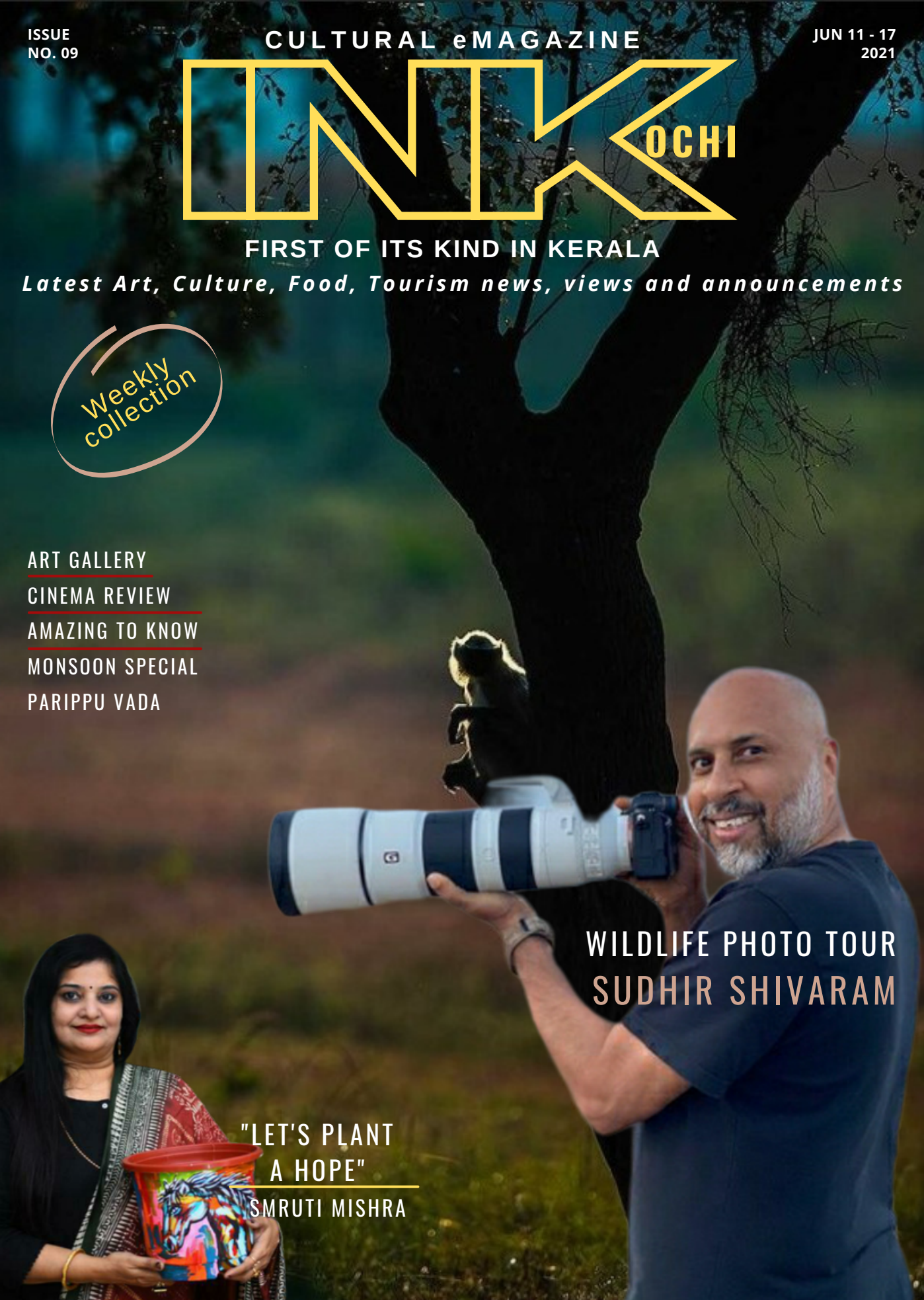


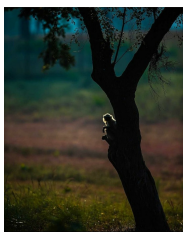
WILDLIFE PHOTO TOUR
SUDHIR SHIVARAM

"LET'S PLANT A HOPE"
SMRUTI MISHRA

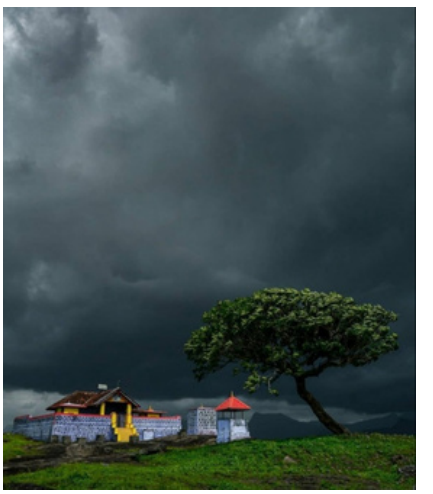
Editor's Note

This week with two images that shows the onset of monsoon over Palakkad and Munnar, Kerala.

Yes... This is the best season to enjoy continuous rain for the next three to four months, of course with a cup of coffee or tea. And why not with a glass of whisky or brandy or gin along with a digital copy of INKochi Magazine in your smartphone or laptop.



Cover photo by:: Sudhir Shivaram



Rain always intensifies our inner desires...!

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

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FOR SALE

Title:
Early Morning

Code: INK149

Artist: Girish Adannavar
Medium: Acrylic
Surface: Canvas - Rolled
Size: 36x30 inches
Price: Rs.125000/-

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FOR SALE

Title:
Mother & Child

Code: INK150

Artist: Antony Alan
Medium: Charcoal paint
Surface: Art paper - Rolled
Size: 42x30 cms
Price: Rs.20000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE

Untitled

Code: INK151

Artist: Sara Hussain
Medium: Watercolour
Surface: Canson paper 130gsm - Rolled
Size: A3
Price: Rs.6000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE

Title:
Black Birds

Code: INK152

Artist: Binu Kottarakara
Medium: Black Ink
Surface: Art paper 130gsm
Size: A4 - Rolled
Price: Rs.3000/-

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LET'S PLANT A HOPE WITH SMRUTI MISHRA

By: Varghese T. Thomas

Hand painted planters are one of the best options, if you desire a lively look in your home decor. The decoration of the interiors can be taken to an enhanced level with hand painted artificial planters designed by Smruti Mishra in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Greenery in a closed concrete room, stuffed with cultural artistry can be achieved using Smruti's various decorative pots and planters. These type of containers contrast well with the interiors of the room.

Smruti, with an LLM degree and passionate for media and art, worked with media houses and schools for 20 years in Odisha. Smruti left her job during last lockdown and started her own workshops on media and art (inspired by FB friends) and now running her home run business - Smruti's Creations, which sells around 300 planters per month now. **>>>**

LET'S PLANT A HOPE WITH SMRUTI MISHRA

She paint on planters with all traditional Indian designs and promote the concept - "Plant a hope with love". She loves all tribal art forms and paints the tribal life, their celebrations and their culture is beautifully represented through her artworks which attracts the most. Odia tribal art is superb and we can notice 50% of her work represents Odisha. Apart from Odia tribal art, she portray Madhubani, Warli, Patta, African, Mandala, abstract etc;. "My theme is mostly based on happiness, celebrations, joy, positivity, hope, aspirations...etc"... Smruti says.

She make it easy to find beautiful, functional pots and planters for both indoor and outdoor applications—all from the comfort of buyers home—without breaking their budget. And, it's not just about the planter...she want the buyers to have a successful growing experience, too! Buyers can count on her to provide plenty of gardening and style tips, ensuring buyers can stay inspired about making their spaces beautiful. **>>>**

LET'S PLANT A HOPE WITH SMRUTI MISHRA

Smruti says.. "A modern living room should always be stocked aplenty with plants and pillows. Cozy up with loved ones and enjoy time at home in style with unique, trendy decor. Look good, feel good." Smruti also paint on fabric, mainly in sarees, Blouses, pillow covers, wall hangings, bedspreads and window curtains. She loves to wear sarees most as a statement towards her life.

Home made food, coffee, books that keeps me moving, spending time with like minded friends & creative people, artistically sensible movies and comedy shows, 70, 80 Hindi cinema songs attracts her the most.

Advice to herself : Jab tak na safal ho nind, chain ko tyago tum...
This is what my Nana ji used to tell me always.

Advice to my younger version: Just listen to your heart, happiness is within you. Be creative and follow your passion with originality. **<<>>**

COVER - Wildlife Photo Tour

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WILDLIFE *photo tour*

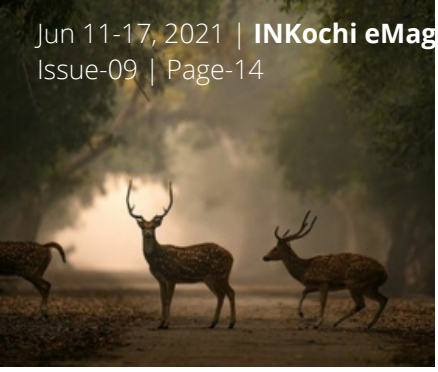
Sudhir Shivaram is much loved, recognized, and respected in wildlife photography circles not only in India but the world over. Engineer by education, photographer by passion, teacher by intuition, Sudhir is an inspiration to scores of people that aspire to break away from the mundane and chase their dreams.

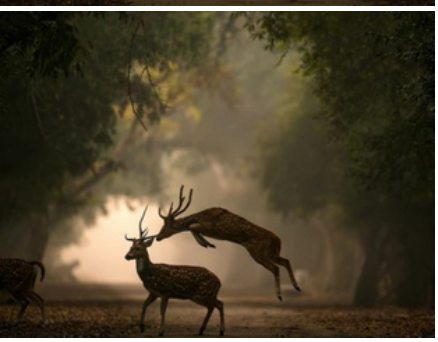
Sudhir Shivaram

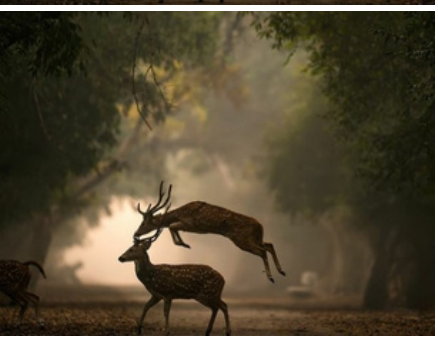
Reproduced
By: Varghese T Thomas

Sudhir Shivaram is one of India's most respected and renowned wildlife photographers. A long and lucrative career in the IT industry did not diminish Sudhir's passion for photography but on the contrary, ensured that he never lost touch with his wild side. So much so that he bid adieu to the corporate jungle to spend more time in the real one. **>>>**

Photos: Sudhir Shivaram





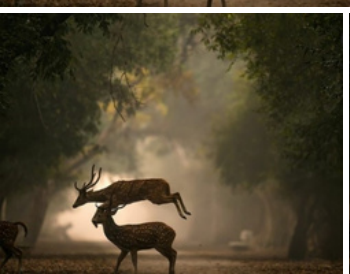


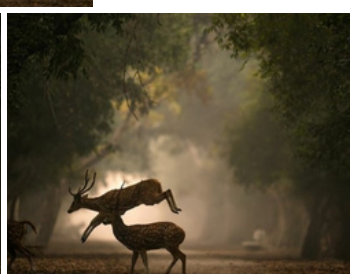
WILDLIFE
photo tour

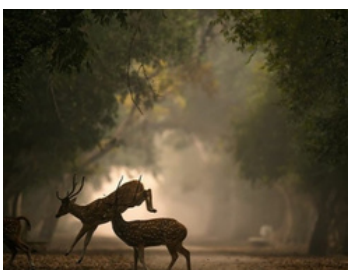
Sudhir's pictures are noteworthy for their technically sophisticated and evocative character. This green evangelist campaigns for wildlife protection around the world and gives freely of his time and images to raise awareness about nature and wildlife.

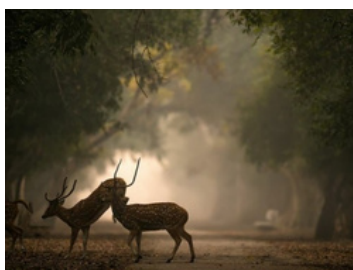
Sudhir was one of the brand ambassadors for Canon India and a Canon contract photographer. He received the Sanctuary Asia Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2012 award.

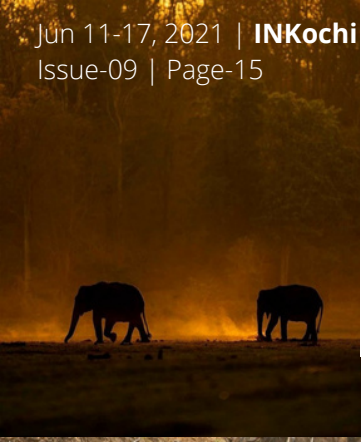
He has figured in Asian Photography Magazine's Top Ten Most Influential People in photography industry in India for five consecutive years since 2015. He has been at fifth, second and third places during the 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. At the 2018 awards, he was awarded the top honour as India's 'First' Most Influential from among a chosen group that comprised top officials of global multinationals. **>>>**

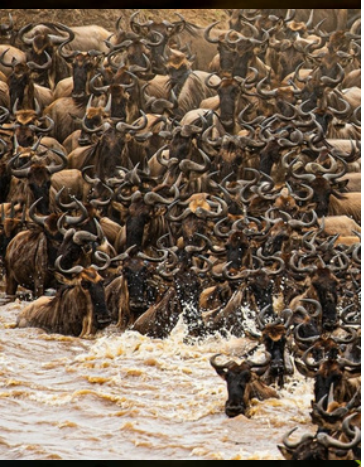


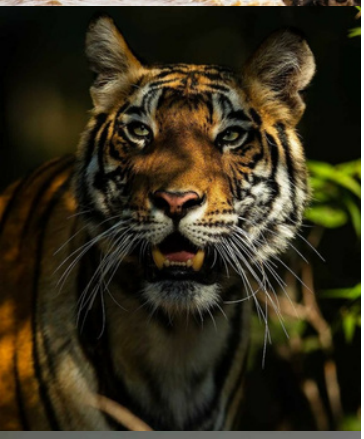


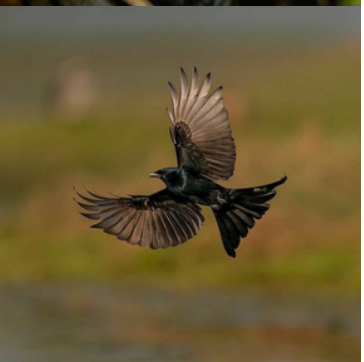








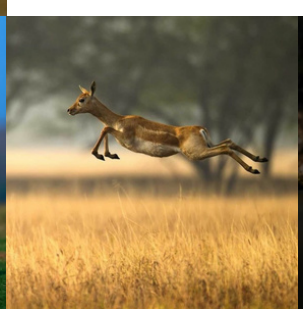


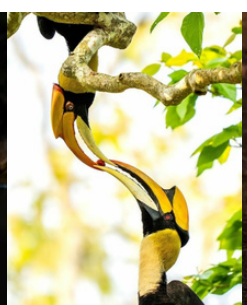


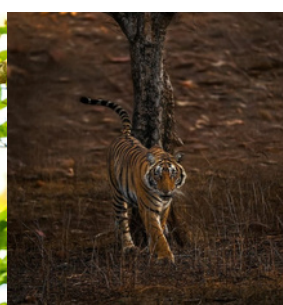
WILDLIFE
photo tour

At 2013's worldwide editorial awards held at the National Geographic Society in Washington D.C., National Geographic Traveller India's September 2013 cover featuring Sudhir's image won the Yellow Border Award for the best cover across 14 language editions of the magazine worldwide.

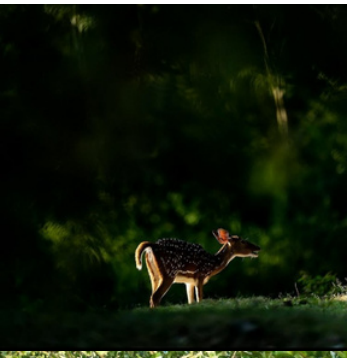
He also started a photography-related Facebook chats that have gone on to become hugely popular. In the last one year, more than 4 million people over the world have viewed his various live videos broadcasts on Facebook, including the ones from various National Parks from around India and Kenya/Tanzania. He was the first person in the world to do a live broadcast of the great migration from the Masai Mara on Facebook in 2015. **>>>**







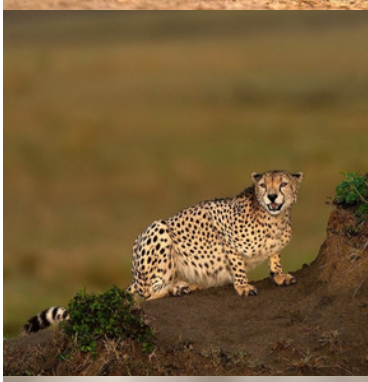
WILDLIFE
photo tour

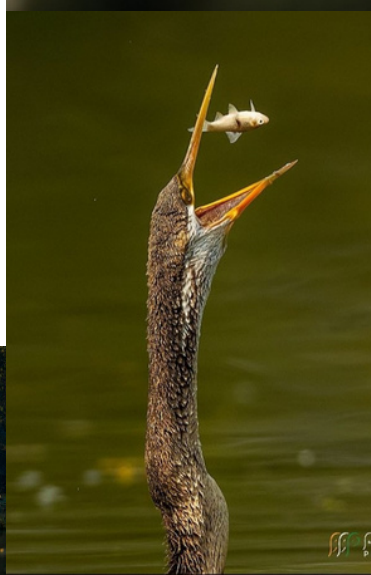


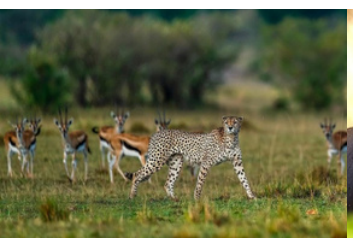
Through his company, Sudhir Shivaram Photography Private Limited, Sudhir conducts photography learning tours to various wildlife destinations across India and Africa with plans to cover more international destinations in the coming seasons.

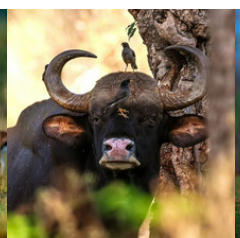
Sudhir launched his video-based online photography tutorials in a subscription model – the first of its kind in India. These tutorials have been received enthusiastically with over a thousand subscribers since its launch in December 2015.

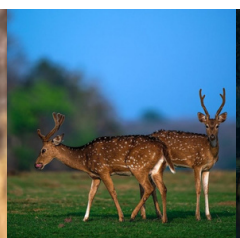
Sudhir is a key influencer in the photography space, especially in India. He is often roped in by big brands to run their promotional campaigns for their new, niche products. Canon, Tamron, Samsung, Huawei, Profoto are a few brands whose products he has introduced/endorsed on social media. >>>

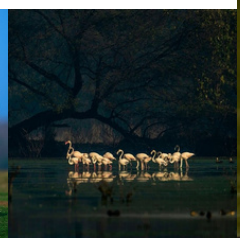


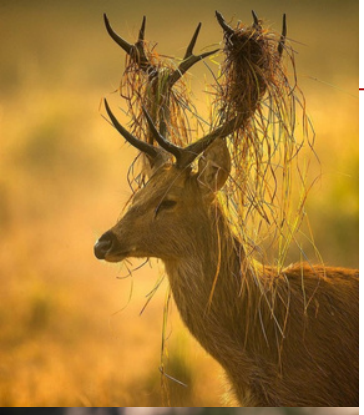












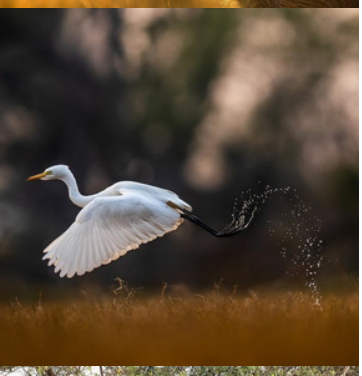
WILDLIFE
photo tour

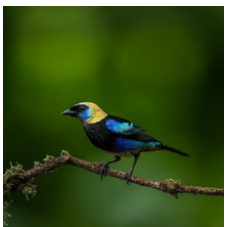
Adobe MAKE IT, an annual global event held at Sydney, Australia, invited Sudhir as one of the guest speakers, . His session was about how technology aids in Wildlife photography. The overall event was attended by more than 2000 people and had an online viewership of more than 50,000 people from the Asia Pacific region. The event boasted some of the biggest international names in the design and creative imaging industry, and Sudhir was one of two Indians invited to participate in this as speaker.

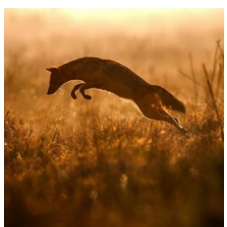
He was part of Jaguar Land Rover's (in collaboration with Condé Nast Traveller) road trip across northeast India to highlight wildlife conservation and habitat protection issues.

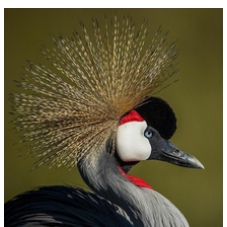
Numerous educational institutes, corporations, government departments across India invite Sudhir to be a guest speaker during some of their prominent events. Sudhir addresses audiences of all ages and occupations and talks about his passion and his journey thus far.

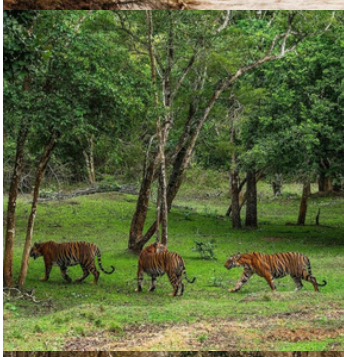
All credentials aside, the thing Sudhir loves the most is to shoot in the wild and teach others how to shoot. <>

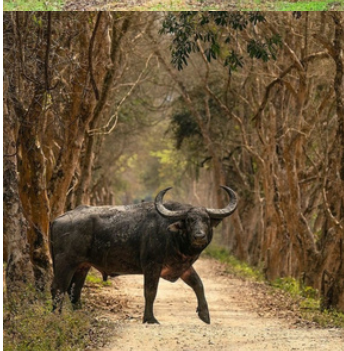












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POEM

Life in the Lockdown

Madhulika S Verma

Life In The Lockdown
An evening of still and silence
Few flitting birds are its only solace
An evening noiseless, motionless, meaningless -
Like a deepening circle of sleep.
Hues now fade to a dullness
As night starts to engulf it all
In to a lesser light and greater loss
An afar Azaan breaks the barren air
An emotion echoes within -
Alive! I am alive.

Meri Kalam se.....
8/6/2021

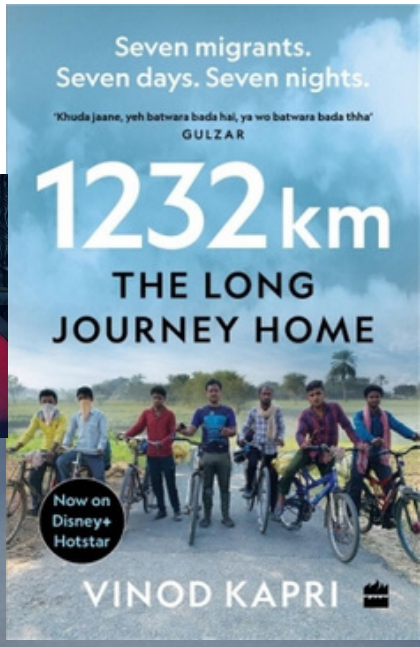
University Lecturer at Sir. J. J. School of Art, Mumbai.
Freelancer at Fine Artist

'1232 Kms' review:

Review: Kalrav Joshi

A hard-hitting documentary on the plight of migrant workers during the Covid-19 lockdown'1232 Kms' explores the human cost of the migrant exodus following the Covid-19 lockdown.

With shocking and gut-wrenching visuals, the migrant crisis is at the core of the new Disney-Hotstar documentary film 1232 KMS. Directed by Vinod Kapri, the film portrays some of the challenges faced by migrant workers upon the loss of livelihood. It was a human-made pandemic in its own right, resulting in India's workforce being left in the throes of anger, anxiety and helplessness. And while the migrating millions were left to their own fate, the "richest became richer" – a final subterfuge of a society that no longer cares.



Amazing to know

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THE wild trails MUNNAR

Palmyra is an ancient Semitic city in present-day Homs Governorate, Syria.

Archaeological finds date back to the Neolithic period, and documents first mention the city in the early second millennium BC.

Contribution: Leonard Lloyd

The Holy Rosary Church of Shettihalli,

Karnataka is a forlorn, haunting structure.

The church was built by French missionary Abbe Jean Antoine Dubois in 1810. Dubois visited Shettihalli in 1799, and decided to settle here. He became a local here adopted their dress and customs, which he studied keenly. Dubois built the church in shettihali to serve the spiritual needs of the Christians who settled here and later the British population.

The Holy Rosary Church served Shettihalli and 12 surrounding villages, with a combined population of around 1,000. It was in 1979 that Indian Government decided to build Gorur Dam on the Hemavati River. The construction of the reservoir and dam led to the land around it getting deserted.

The fact that this church remains submerged in water during monsoons makes it so special. If you happen to visit the place during peak monsoon season, only one-third of the chapel could be visible.The church's roof collapsed in 1982, but large parts of the structure are still standing making it a haunting scene.

If you wish to visit the church during rainy season, you can hire boatmen/fishermen available near the dam and pay them to give you a tour of the chapel from outside.

Contribution:
Enroute India

MONSOON SPECIAL

parippu vada

By: Ashif Mohammed

Parippu vada / Dal vada

Parippu vada or Dal vada, to describe in three simple words - spicy, crunchy and yummy.

A perfect snack for a Malayali. It is one of the most favorite snack in kerala. It has its own position in the whole circle of status. Be it in a simple tea stall or a star rated restaurant. Parippu vada, and a cup of black tea is the famous combination in Kerala through ages. It is true that liking of Parippu Vada runs through Malayali's blood.

According to me cooking is an equal-opportunity talent and I find that anybody can cook. It is not limited by the age, profession, caste, colour or creed of a person. What is needed is the love for cooking. For me the passion for cooking does not stop in the kitchen, when I travel, I continue to be inspired by eating in some of the best restaurants around the world.

Only at Thoppumpady - Kochi

MONSOON SPECIAL

parippu vada

Recipe: Ashif Mohammed

PREP TIME: 15 mins
COOK TIME: 15 mins
CUISINE: Kerala
COURSE: Snacks
SERVINGS: 4

INGREDIENTS

- Chana dal or Toor dal sel - 1 Cup
- Ginger - 1 inch piece
- Dry red chillies - 3 Nos
- Shallot - 12 Nos
- Curry leaves - 1 Sprig
- Salt - to taste
- Cooking oil - for deep frying (1 cup)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Soak dal in water for 2 hours and drain it (make sure that it is drained well).
- Chop ginger, dry red chillies, shallots and curry leaves finely.
- Grind dal to a coarse paste without adding water. Do make sure NOT grind it to a smooth paste.
- Add chopped ingredients and salt to the grounded dal and mix it well.
- Wet your hands and make 8 equal size balls with the mixture. Make the balls as a round shape by pressing it with your palm. (If it is too sticky try dipping your hand in water while making the balls)
- Pour enough oil into a deep bottom pan and heat it. When the oil is hot reduce the flame to medium and deep fry the vadas by turning both sides till golden brown color.
- Serve parippu vada with and a cup of tea.

NOTES

- Make sure that the oil is hot enough while frying the parippu vada. Otherwise it will break and spread on the oil.
- Mix both chana dal and toor dal can also be used.
- Shallots and dry red chillies can be replaced by onion and green chillies.

birdsclub
ROOTS video
PROJECT RAINGROVE
KUTTI VANAM PADHATHI
(മുത്തുമുത്ത്-കുട്ടിവനം പദ്ധതി)
Dear friends,
"Project Raingrove - Kutti Vanam Padhathi (മുത്തുമുത്ത്-കുട്ടിവനം പദ്ധതി)" is a flagship program carried out by Birds Club International (BCI) since its inception. Every year, on 'World Environment Day' (June 5) we make sure to help schools, colleges and public to grow a small forest inside the campus or at public places. We have been closely monitoring the progress of 'Kutti Vanam in various parts of Kerala. Students and public from all over Kerala, who have the genuine interest and space to grow trees in their backyards can contact us and let us know about the same. Then, with the support of Department of Forests and Wildlife, Govt. of Kerala we can supply 10 tree saplings to everyone who has registered with us. Moreover, the OTT platform 'ROOTS' promised to contribute one tree sapling for every new subscriber joining. The first 1000 applicants will get the opportunity to become part of this green initiative.
We hope that, together we can make a big difference and contribute to the climate crisis management of our state. So we humbly request the wholehearted support of the students and public of our state in the realization of this ambitious project. Interested people/groups can mail to us at
info@birdsclubinternational.com or contact us on +91 8714810503.
Thanking you.
Yours sincerely
Jayaraj
(Film Director and Founder of Birds Club International)
www.birdsclubinternational.com

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University of Kerala
Webinar series
Cultural Studies in/of Keralam:
Politics, Praxis, Methods
R. S. Babu, Chairperson, Kerala Media Academy will release the book
Lecture 11 of 24
13 June 2021, 6.30 pm
Little Magazines and Modernism in Malayalam
P. K. Rajasekharan
Literary critic & cultural historian
Respondents
Civic Chandran
Editor, Patabhedam
K. N. Shaji
Writer and former Editor of Samkramanam and Niyogam
The programme is conceived of as a series of 24 fortnightly talks followed by critical responses
All are cordially invited. For participation, contact centreforculturalstudiesuok@gmail.com
Meena T. Pillai, Director, Centre for Cultural Studies

IN & AROUND Kochi

MTiFF
MTIFF is an initiative of Kerala Museum, MNF in Kochi, Kerala.
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A platform for new talent from around the world to launch their work.
Promoting the role of Filmmakers as creative agents of socialchange!
Our logo celebrates creativity and inclusiveness, embraces change,
bridging heritage and the contemporary!

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in history, fine arts and performing arts.
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by in-house curations, collaborations with arts
organisations and a dedicated arts-loving community!

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WEBINAR
VIA ZOOM MEETINGS
LEGIBLE SCRIPT AND SCRIBE
Marathi Handwriting in the Age of Print
On Friday, 11th June, 2021 at 3.00 PM
Dr. PRACHI DESHPANDE
Dr. Deshpande teaches History in Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata. Her areas of research interest include language and modernity; script and language; multilinguality; cultures of historiography; memory; translation; scribal cultures, Maratha states; 19th and 20th century western India; Marathi literature and culture. Dr. Deshpande has publications both in Marathi and English. She is the author of Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960 (2007) which explores modern history writing practices in Marathi-speaking parts of Western India and its impact on shaping Maharashtrian regional identity. A book length project on Marathi language practices in different overlapping spaces – scribal, pedagogical, political, multilingual is in progress. Recently, she has received Infosys Prize for the Humanities (2020) awarded by the Infosys Science Foundation. She is the Convener of Jadunath Bhavan, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta.
Abstract
The arrival of print and the expansion of colonial education over the 19th century triggered the standardization of many regional Indian languages. There were efforts to standardize grammars and textbooks, and to reform scripts and orthography. Print not only brought typefaces and printed books, but also prompted changes in practices of reading and writing, including handwriting. This talk examines the wider world of handwriting in the Marathi language in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Through a closer look at writers and their hands and pens in offices, courts & sites of police surveillance, it explores ideas about literacy, legibility, efficiency and publicity that undergirded the emergent bureaucratic framework in western India. These ideas and practices were critical to the successful claims for linguistic statehood by the mid-twentieth century.
For more details: www.kchr.ac.in/pages/172
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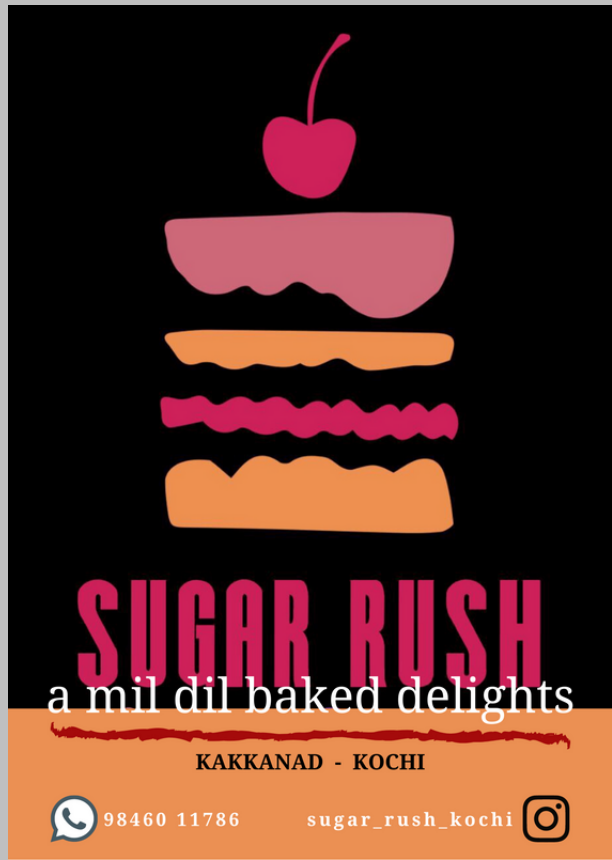

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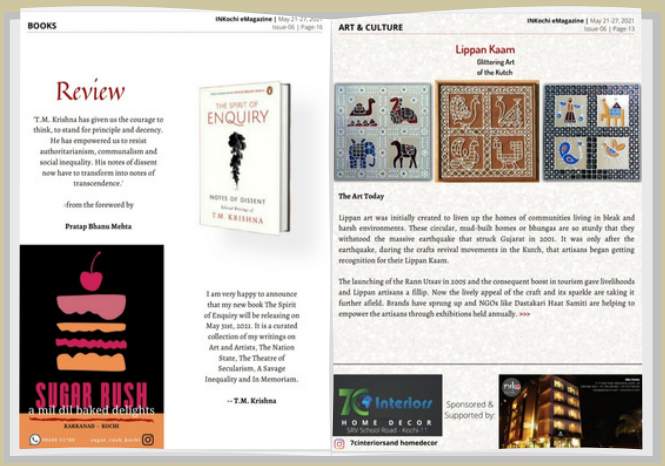

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Pepples Art
By: Natasha Newton

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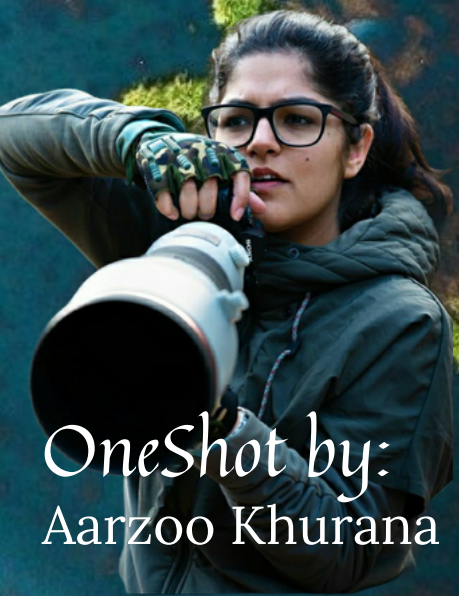


OneShot by:
Aarzoo Khurana

Editor's Note

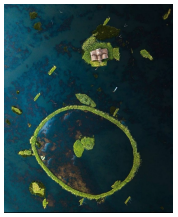
We let you experience other cultures

Cultural exchanges provide an opportunity to explore other cultures, traditions, customs, beliefs, societies and much more. Hence, such opportunities make you view the world with a different lens. This provides alternative perspectives! It broadens one's horizons and increases the tendency of acceptance.

By understanding differences from others, one tends to recognize one's own self. Cultural exchanges allow us to experience the exotic cultures, but at the same time, provide an opportunity to better understand our own cultures and traditions. Hence, these opportunities act as widows of self-awareness.

Diversity is beautiful. It is the pre-requisite of unity. Unity, instead of uniformity, creates tolerance, acceptance and flexibility. To attain unity, it is necessary to appreciate diversity. Cultural exchanges help us do just that. When one experiences other cultures, view the world with another lens, accept the "other", one understands the very essence of diversity which is the first step towards attaining unity.

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas



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FOR SALE

Code: INK153

Title:
The Solitary Dancer

Artist: Somendra Singh
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Surface: Canvas - Rolled
Size: 27x33 inches
Price: Rs.110000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE

Title:
Reflections

Code: INK154

Artist: Boaz M. Skaria
Medium: Watercolour
Surface: Art Paper - Rolled
Size: A3
Price: Rs.3000/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE

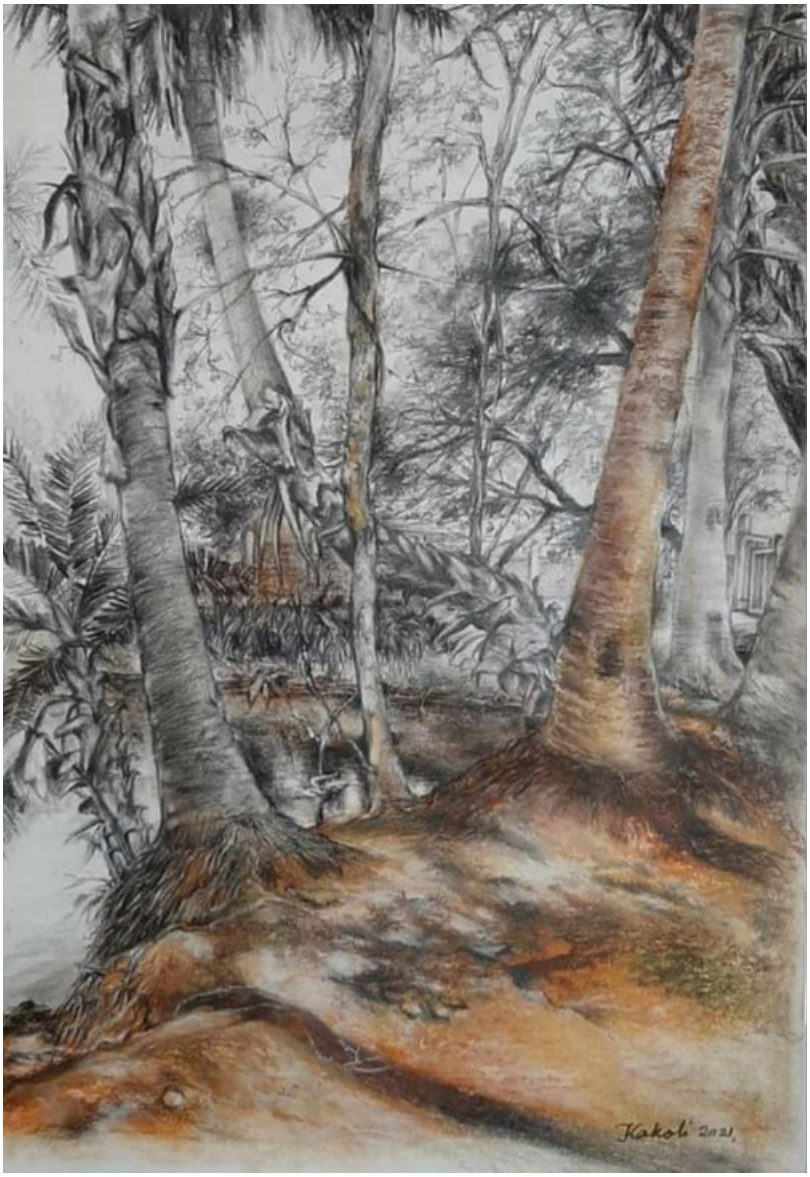
Untitled

Code: INK155

Artist: Sara Hussain
Medium: Ink
Surface: Canson paper 130gsm - Rolled
Size: A3
Price: Rs.2500/-

Contact:
WhatsApp
8547107471

FOR SALE



Title:
Nature On Spot

Code: INK156

Artist: Kakoli Chattopadhyay
Medium: Mixed Media
Surface: Acid free handmade paper, 110 gsm
Size: 29.7x42 cms - Rolled
Price: Rs.10000/-

Contact:
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Natasha Newton's

Charming Pebble Paintings Turn Found Beach Stones Into Handheld Art

By: Thomas Chapman

British artist and illustrator Natasha Newton uses found beach pebbles, sea glass, and fragments of pottery as her canvas. Sourced from the coastal town of Suffolk, England, the artist strives to give the natural objects “another life as a treasured work of art” by turning them into stone paintings. With a deep love for nature, Newton hand-paints trees, leaves, animals, and more onto their smooth surfaces. **>>>**

Pepple Art

"One of my favorite pastimes is beach combing along the Suffolk coast, and I can't go too long without a trip to the beach," Newton confesses on her website. Fascinated by the stories of each stone or piece of slate, the artist reflects on their "past life" and how they've been "beautifully tumbled by the waves and the passage of time." Having washed up on the shoreline, Newton selects the best pieces to adorn with her illustrations, using a monochrome palette of acrylic paint.

Each pebble painting features minimalist, black and white motifs; a distinctive style that's developed from Newton's portfolio of landscape paintings and illustrations. Using a tiny paintbrush, the talented artist is able to add charming details to each piece, such as thin tree branches, or delicate, wispy feathers. Evoking "a magical stillness found during the autumn and winter seasons," each stone is a calming, handheld work of art. **>>>**

Pepple Art

My work is inspired by nature, home, and the landscape of the UK. I love exploring the countryside and I find that the Surrey Hills, where I currently live and work, frequently inspires my paintings. I'm also influenced by the landscape and coastline of Suffolk, where I was born, and the beautiful North of England.

I use acrylic on canvas, or watercolour, gouache and mixed media on paper to create my paintings. They tend to have a strong folk art quality, evoking feelings of nostalgia and comfort. I prefer to work slowly and intentionally, taking time to enjoy the process of creating art and allowing the pieces to evolve at their own pace, building layers of colour, texture and detail over several hours or days. **<>**

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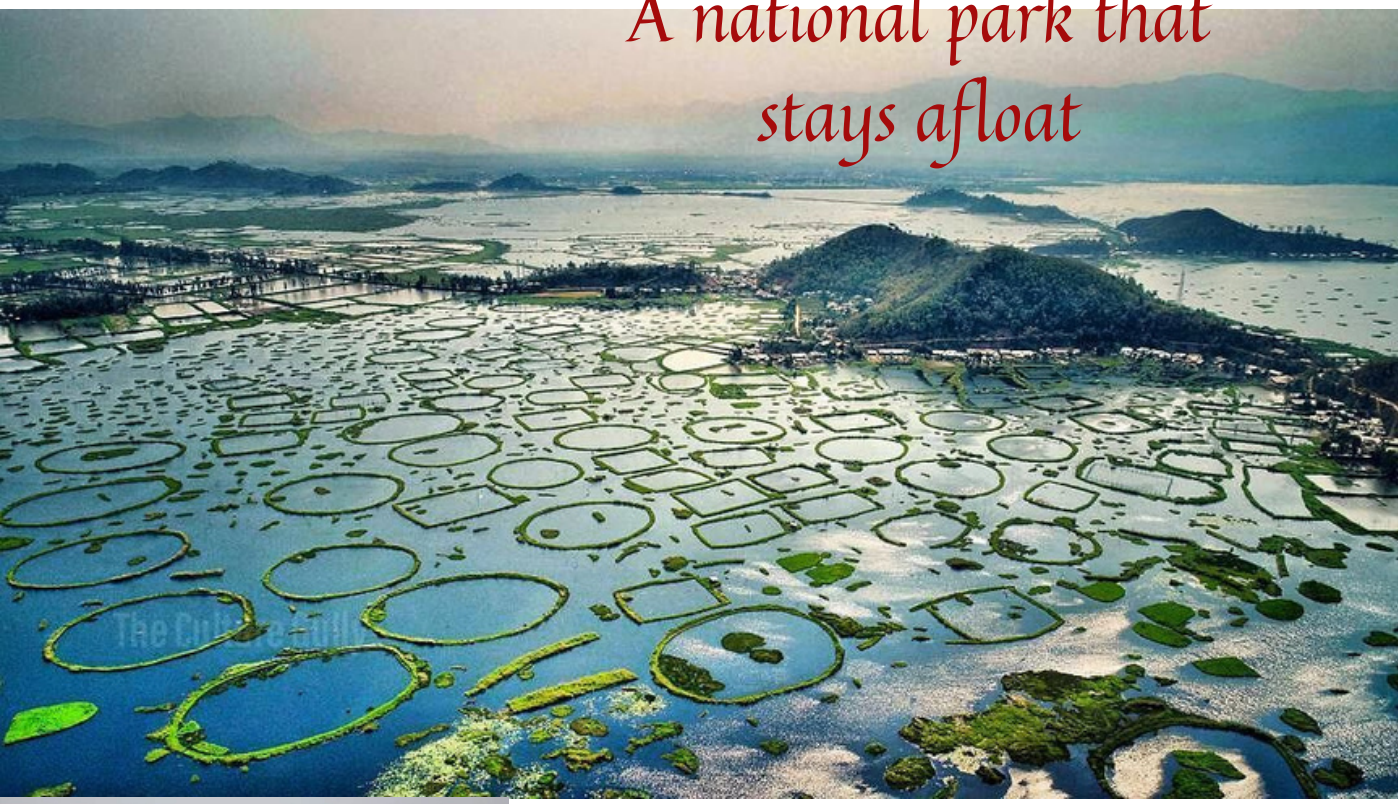
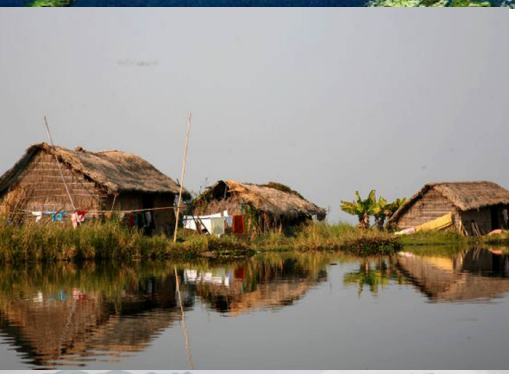
Loktak lake
The floating wonder in Manipur
A national park that stays afloat

Text & Photos: Mrinal K. Sen





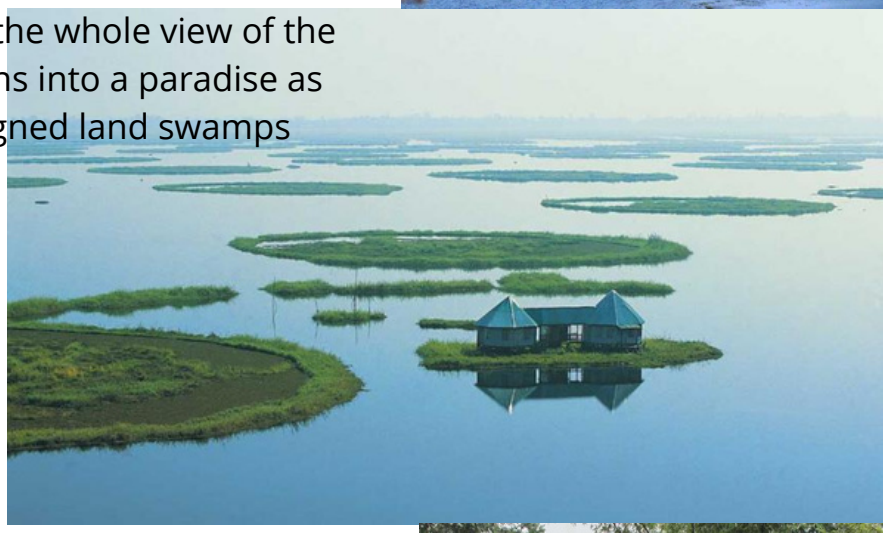
Being the largest fresh water lake in north-east India, Loktak lake is like an entire ecosystem in itself with a rich varied collection of flora and fauna.

In the north-eastern state of Manipur, lies the freshwater floating lake called the Loktak lake. Located in Bishnupur district, approximately 53 kms from Imphal city, this lake is an integral part of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, world's only floating national park. Known for its picturesque floating swamps of land, it is a beautiful stretch of water resembling miniature islands. **>>>**

Floating Wonder

Locally called phumdis (islets), the lake is full of such circular swamps of land pieces which grab the attention. These are naturally formed pieces of land comprising of a miscellaneous collection of soil, vegetation and decomposing organic matter. These take form when the foliage floating in the water piles up together over the course of many years.

Inhabited by the fishermen, the whole view of the freshwater national park turns into a paradise as soon as the sun sets. The aligned land swamps and the phumsangs (the huts on the phumdis) floating on the lake surrounded with the vivid scenes of birds under the vast empty sky, turns the place into a radiant scintillating and beaming legacy of the sun.



An ecosystem covering almost 240 sq km area, these phumdis are the lifeline of many people. They are a source of irrigation, drinking water and hydropower generation, other than fishing which is the major source of income for the people. The phumdis stay right below the lake almost like green icebergs, allowing the roots to reach the lakebed in dry weather. As monsoon arrives, the roots absorb water and then rise upto two metres, forming a safe base for the houses made on it. **>>**

Floating Wonder

An integral part of the Keimbul Park, it was initially declared as a sanctuary in October 1953 mainly to save the extinction of Sangai deer, a Manipuri brow-antlered deer habituated to walk around the phumdis in Loktak. In July 1954, hunting was allowed other than the part where the Sangai deer resided. The park was officially notified as a sanctuary in 1966 and nearly a decade later, in 1977 it was notified as a national park.

With the population of almost 100,000, Loktak lake also happens to have the first floating school in India called the Loktak Elementary Floating school. The school was inaugurated in 2017 providing elementary education from classes' I-III.

The lake is a birder's paradise, having sights of birds like the Burmese pied myna, east Himalayan pied Kingfisher, the northern hill myna, etc. It serves as a home to almost 233 species of aquatic plants, almost 100 species of birds and approximately 425 species of animals. However, the lake is in dire circumstances due to the numerous threats due of pollution, declining diversity and the construction of Ithai Hydropower Dam in the 1980's. The land gradually kept changing and the water level started remaining high all year round, resulting in thinning of the swamps.

It is hoped that tourism can heavily change this scenario as it will bring Loktak the much emphasised attention and awareness. A documentary named Phum Sang, made by Hao bam Pawan Kumar examines the serious environmental challenges it is facing and also won the Golden Conch award for best documentary in Mumbai International Film Festival in 2014. Acknowledged by UNESCO in its tentative list of World Heritage sites, the Loktak lake is a blend of rich bio-diversity with the delightful landscape making it a must visit for any travel enthusiast. **<>**

STARTING NEW SERIES

OneWeek OneShot

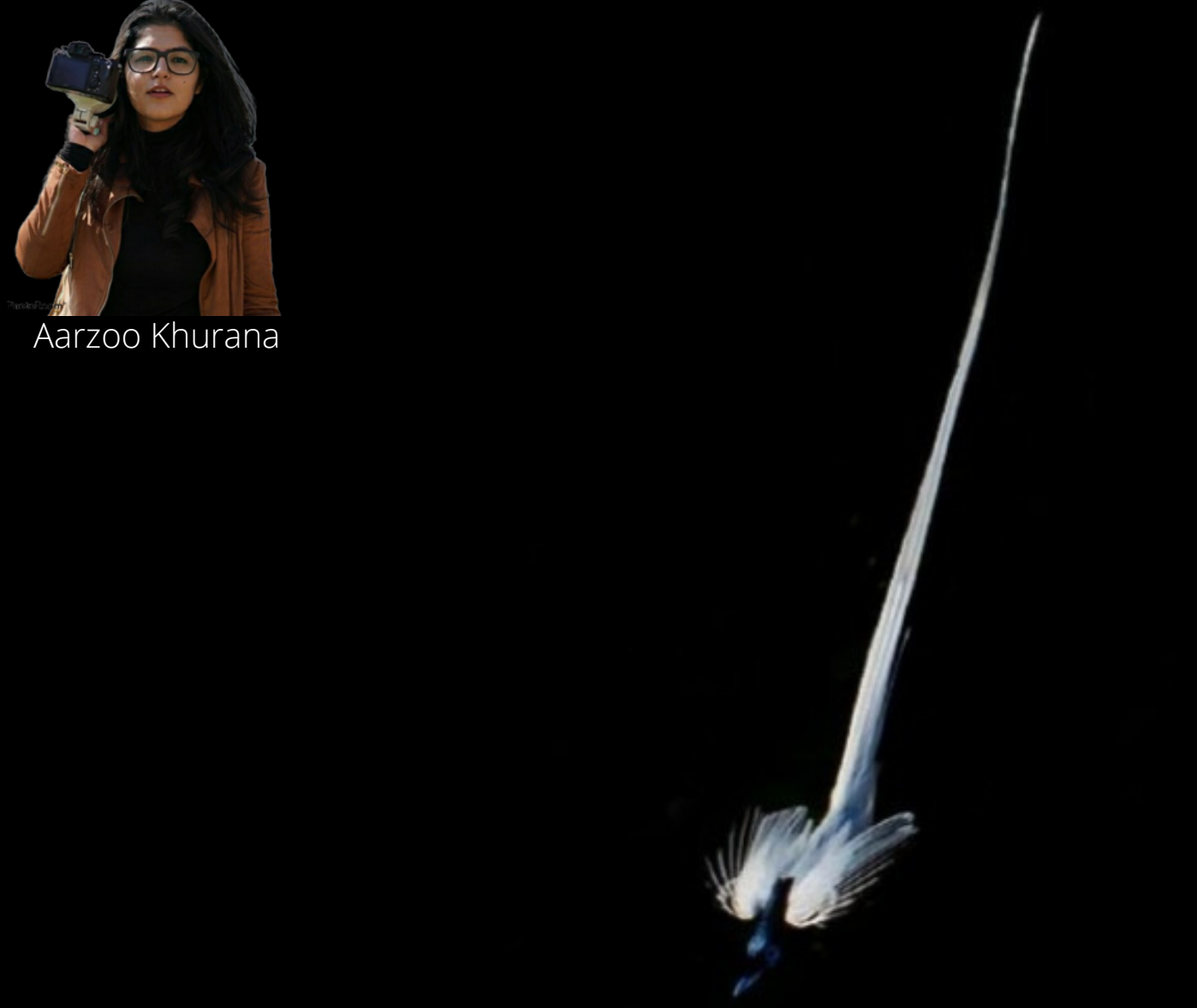
By: Aarzoo Khurana

Exquisite Amid the Extraordinary

Aarzoo Khurana, an LLB Degree holder, is a Nature & Wildlife Photographer, Sony Alfa Brand Ambassador and mentor. She strives to find beauty in the elements of nature and paint through the lens colours of nature in all their splendour. Her photos are a dance of light and shadows portraying some of the most engaging moments one might witness in the wild.

SEE NEXT PAGE

Aarzoo Khurana



Cruising in the dark
Asian Paradise Flycatcher
Corbett, Uttarakhand

OneShot

AMAZING TO KNOW

Fortress of Our Lady of Grace, Portugal.
Originally called the fortress of Count Lippe, named after a Englishman Guillermo de Schaumburg-Lippe who reorganized the Portuguese army, and who ordered it to be raised in 1763 when he saw the strategic importance of the area.

Contribution: Peter Suez

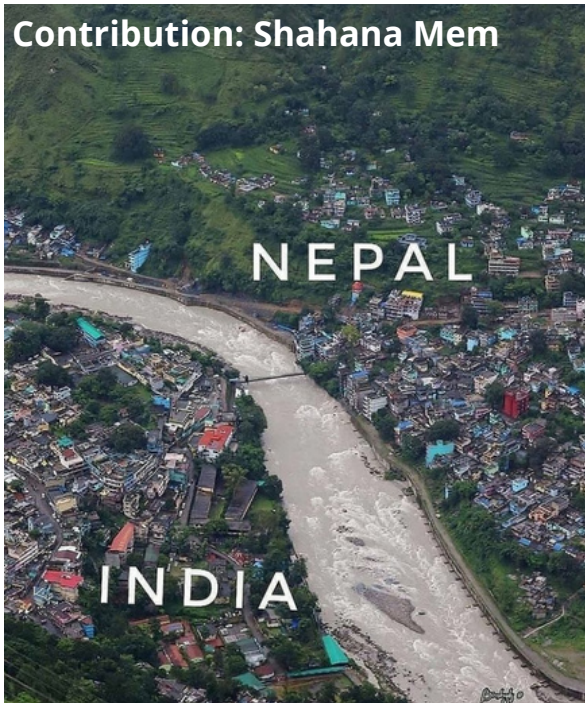
13th Century Roman Catholic Bishops Helmet

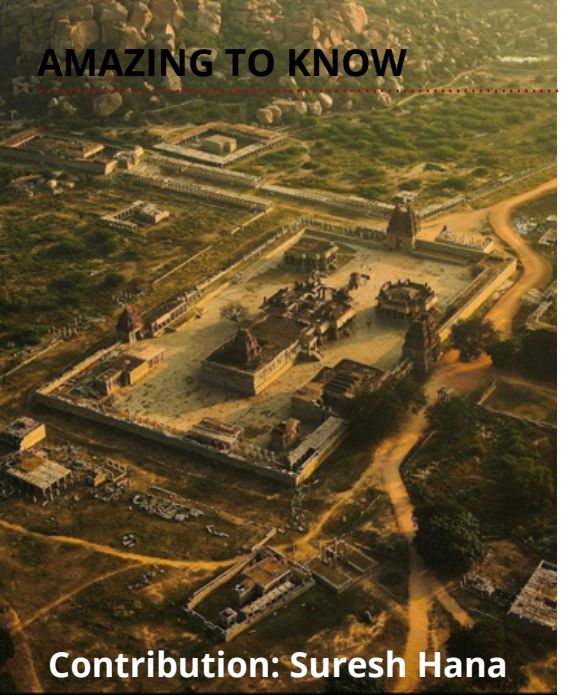
Contribution: Peter Suez

Amazing to know

The river **Mahakali** is the natural border between Nepal and India in Dharchula, Uttarakhand.

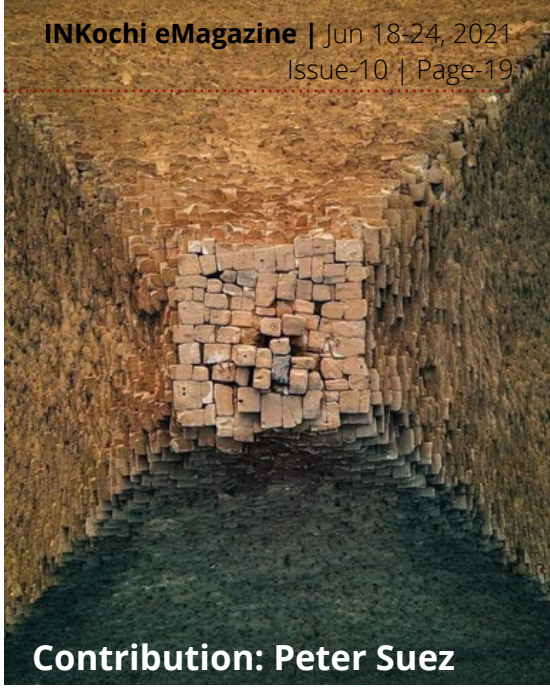
Dharchula is situated on the bank of river Mahakali which originates from a place called Kalapani , as it separates and forms the border between India and Nepal. The area has a mixture of Kumaouni and Rung language, traditions, and culture.





Contribution: Suresh Hana

Mystical Vitthala Temple
Hampi, Karnataka



Contribution: Peter Suez

Top of the Great Pyramid
of Giza

Built in 1498, **Adalaj Ni Vav** is a classic illustration of Maru-Gurjara architecture that originated in Gujarat and Rajasthan from the 11th - 13th centuries, under the Chalukya dynasty (or Solanki dynasty). The building material used is golden sandstone and the design of the stepwell is as ornate as those of Hindu and Jain temples with high plinths, decorative pillars, friezes, figurative carvings and domical roofs resembling timber carvings.

Contribution: Nilesh Narayan

The complex of Adalaj Ni Vav also served as a tavern or inn for travellers and locals who would congregate to converse or worship the deities located inside the stepwell.

Amazing to know

Contribution: Zacaria Shah

I have simply fallen in love with Mathura and Brindavan post my visit there. The culture here rivals Shahjahanabad, the street food and breakfast is exceptional inspite of having no ginger or garlic , and the people so warm that one can spend hours taking to them.

One interesting aspect of the place is the phrase "Radhe Radhe" which is the go-to greeting of everyone here (obviously with the massive heritage and history related to Lord Krishna). Radhe Radhe ,not only finds itself on everyone s lips but also can be found painted on the walls everywhere.

Amazing to know

The e rickshaw wala who drove me around in Vrindavan had Radhe Radhe constantly on his lips while he zoomed on the narrow streets of the place. The tone and modulation of the phrase changed depending on the traffic ahead of him being smooth or stuck. But Radhe Radhe remained perennially.

Suddenly a guy on a bike cut across him causing him to brake suddenly. The biker and my driver exchanged angry glances. I was almost sure he would abuse now. But he breaks out :

" Arey Radhe ... Kya karke maanoge Radhe"

And off he went again ,unperturbed and happy

Kya karke maanoge Hindustan

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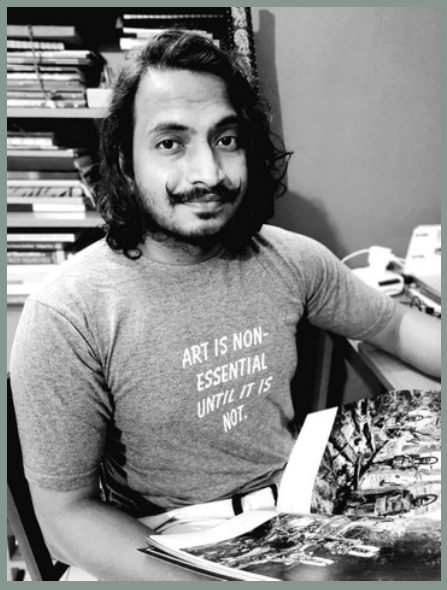
POEM

Madhu Raghavendra



MADHU RAGHAVENDRA (poet and curator) has authored three books of poetry: *Make Me Some Love To Eat, Stick No Bills, and Being Non-essential*. He is the founder of Poetry Couture, a movement that has created free spaces for poetry in India. He uses poetry as a tool to advocate human and environmental rights. He collaborates with global artists to create multidisciplinary poetry experiences. This poem has spoken to artists over a dozen countries and made into many music compositions.

Artist :

I don't mind
being the non-essential.

Even a child takes
its mother for granted.
It does not run back
to its mother until it's hurt.

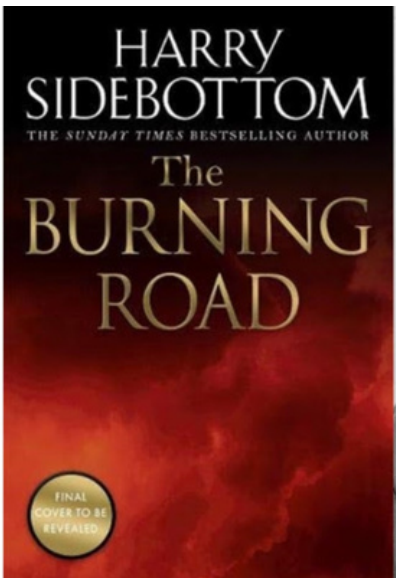
Nobody first thinks of water
when they arrive
at an exquisite dinner party,
until they are choking.

I don't mind
being the non-essential
knowing you will come looking
when things are broken
and nothing else works.

Art is non-essential
Until it is not.

Review

By: Topping & Company Booksellers, Ely, UK.



By: Tejaswi Prasad

It is, fundamentally, a very sad book. Sad is too simplistic a word – this book aches, almost every page of it, not just with sorrow but with a distinct sort of self-loathing rooted in disgust. The emotion permeates each line, regardless of whether or not it's addressing it directly; it is a convincing depiction of the way unhappiness can seep into one's very worldview.

Shamal Days is a personal drama that takes place against the backdrop of larger world events. It is about politics, of both the international and office varieties (petty, messy, and unfortunately consequential). It is about sex (illicit). It is about immigrant life in the Gulf (Malayali.) Most of all, it is about Abbas, our protagonist with a finger in all of these pies. The novel jumps back and forth between different periods in Abbas' life, distinguishable largely by which newspaper he works at and the degree of his unhappiness.

AD265 – In the shadow of Mount Etna, slaves are rising up. As the rebel leader declares Sicily the new land of the free, men and women are slaughtered, and cities across the island are sacked and burned. When a ship is wrecked off the island's west coast, all but two survivors are cut down in the surf by the rebel slaves. Ballista, an experienced Roman soldier, has always found a way to survive against the odds – but his son Marcus is still just a boy. With The Burning Road stretching out ahead of them, father and son must cross the war-ravaged island in a race against time to save the rest of his family, and somehow find a way to extinguish the brutal rebellion, before it all goes up in flames.

Thidambu Nritham

A ritual dance performed by carrying the thidambu (replica of the deity) of Gods and Goddesses on the heads. Prevalent in places north of Korapuzha (Kora River) in Kozhikode, thidambu nritham will be performed by Namboothiri (priest). While dancing, the performer will carry decorated with flowers and ornaments, the idols are placed on the heads.

The performer has to undergoe proper training which will begins with guruvandanam, pulimutti is received and the rhythm is practiced and then the dance steps. While practicing body movements, different types of oil and ghee are applied on the body and massaged. Those with flexible movements and rhythm can perform Thidambu Nritham rigorously.

The performance, as in tradition, is staged with the accompaniment of vilakku (traditional oil lamp) held by Warrier community and the percussion instrument played by the Marars. The dancers wear white dresses with folds (pleat). A special headgear known as 'ushnipeetam' is worn and the Thidambu is placed on top of it.

Chenda, valanthala, ilathalam, kuzhal and sanku are the other musical instruments accompanying the performance. Four talas (rhythm) are used such as Thakhiladi, adantha, champada and panchari. Each rythm ends with a finale and the next begins. And, gradually the dance becomes fast-paced. In some Thidambu Nritham, one to five Thidambus are used.

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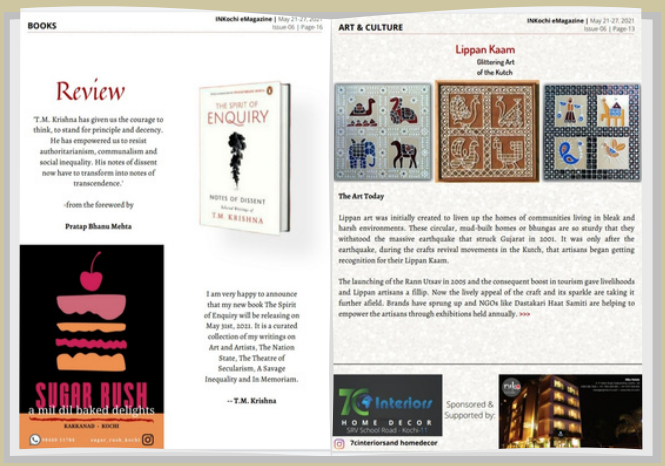
BOOKS
Review
THE SPIRIT OF ENQUIRY
NOTES OF DISSENT
T.M. KRISHNA
Pratap Bhanu Mehta
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I am very happy to announce that my new book The Spirit of Enquiry will be releasing on May 31st, 2021. It is a curated collection of my writings on Art and Artists, The Nation State, The Theatre of Secularism, A Savage Inequality and In Memoriam.
-- T.M. Krishna
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